FOCAL POINTS MEETING - PACIFIC
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The Role of the Focal Point

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The Role of the COL Focal Point

• What roles do FPs perform for COL & their country?
• What challenges do FPs face?
• What could COL do to help FPs be more effective?
COL Focal Points
Our direct link to each country

Africa & the Mediterranean

Asia

Pacific

Caribbean
Pacific Representation in COL Governance

- **Dr Linda Sissons CNZM**
  Chair of COL Board of Governors
  Chief Executive of the Primary Industry Training Organisation

- **Dr Emma Kruse Vaai**
  CEO, Samoa Qualifications Authority (SQA)

- Australian Aid & NZ Aid represented on Board
Pacific Influence in COL Programme

- Pacific has specific challenges in contexts not found elsewhere in Commonwealth
- COL needs up-to-date information about needs and priorities
- Aware of regional plans and frameworks and other development partner activities
- Recognise that MoE staff is small and people, and financial resources, are stretched
What are the most important roles played by the Focal Point?

- To share information on COL in country & with COL on ODL needs and priorities
- Raise awareness of possible COL assistance
- To assist in securing country contributions to COL
- Advocate for ODL
- Meet and arrange in-country visits for COL staff
- Brief Ministers regarding COL issues
- PACFOLD Advisory Board members
Key challenges experienced by Focal Points

• Not always aware of COL activities in country
• COL information not always passing through Focal Points
• Sustainability of Focal Points. Ministries of Education should keep Focal Points informed
• Delays regarding payment to COL are sometimes at the Ministry of Finance
• Officials take up many roles, some Focal Points have different roles with partners (UNESCO)
• COL works in non-formal ed & training, involves other Ministries
What could COL do to help Focal Points be more effective?

• Inform FPs on how we spend the country contribution
• Copy relevant reports to ALL officials concerned (sometimes Focal Points do not receive information)
• Ensure FPs notified of all activities in country
What does COL do for Focal Points?

• Share Country Action Plans
• Provide information on COL
• Publicise the list of FPs on COL website
• Inform FPs of COL staff activities and visits in-country
• Triennial meeting
• Provide online collaboration space
COL Focal Points

In order to make its relationship with each Commonwealth Member State more systematic and interactive, the Commonwealth of Learning first introduced a network of 'COL Focal Points' in 2006, which continues to strengthen in effectiveness. Each Minister of Education nominates a Focal Point (listed below) to be COL’s primary contact in a particular country.

This network supports COL in its role to help countries use a range of appropriate and available approaches and technologies to foster learning at scale. COL’s work covers two sectors of activity: Education and Skills. Dialogue with the Focal Points will ensure that COL initiatives match national priorities. These discussions will help COL to develop Country Action Plans for each country every three-year cycle.

The role of the COL Focal Points is to:

- Interact with COL on its programme, give feedback to inform ongoing interventions and to flag areas where new initiatives and interventions could be considered.
- Have a co-ordination role among different ministries and institutions in their country, where necessary.
- Receive and disseminate information about COL and its activities.
- Receive advance advice about visits of COL staff to specific countries so that well-planned and adequately prepared interactions occur on all issues of mutual interest.
Member Countries - Pacific

Pacific
- Australia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
• Increase COL’s presence and reach in the region
• Strong partnership between COL & USP
• Regional focus
• Provide more affordable opportunities for capacity building
• PACFOLD learn online space
Thank You for participating