

Executive Summary

The Regional Focal Points Meeting for the Asia region was held at Wawasan Open University (WOU) in Penang, Malaysia from 25 – 27 September 2011. The meeting was attended by Focal Points, or their representatives, from Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. The Focal Points from Singapore and Bangladesh were unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Sir John Daniel, President and CEO; Prof. Asha Kanwar, Vice-President; Mr. John Lesperance, Education Specialist: VUSSC and Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Education Specialist: Agriculture and Livelihoods from the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). Dr. R. Sreedher, Director and Mr. R. Thyagarajan, Head of Administration and Finance of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) also attended the Meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Share information about the status of open and distance learning (ODL) in each participating country in the region;
2. Provide a mid-term report of what COL has done in each country; and
3. Identify the education and training priorities that COL can support in its next Three Year Plan 2012-2015.

COL, the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia and Wawasan Open University jointly organised the meeting. Prof. Dr. Rujhan Mustafa, Director General and Prof. Dr. Morshidi Sirat, Deputy Director General-Public Sector in the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia participated in the programme. Dr. Rujhan pointed out that Malaysia's Vision 2020 has emphasis on human resource development and the experiences of COL in ODL could play a major role in addressing the vision.

The meeting, through a workshop mode for three days, studied the activities of COL and identified challenges and priorities. The Focal Points agreed to the framework of the Three-Year Plan 2012-2015. The following points emerged during the workshop.

1. The Three-Year Plan for 2012-2015 is in line with the issues and priorities of the countries in Asia. However there is a need to give a sharper focus for the vision statement.
2. In the formal education sector, COL could look into the following areas:
 - Adopting a transnational approach to quality assurance and recognition for the region
 - Mutual recognition of degrees and credit transfer
 - Open schooling system for secondary level should not only focus on addressing the issue of access but a lot of attention must also be placed on quality and relevance
 - Supporting conventional educational institutions to make transition to dual mode (F2F and ODL)
 - Strengthening of teacher education through ODL including in-service training.

3. In the Livelihood & Health Sector, the following recommendations were made:
 - Emphasis on skill development and entrepreneurship among youth.
 - Strengthening of farming community towards new agriculture as well as supporting the new entrants to the agricultural sector.
 - Extending the community health to sanitation and hygiene.
 - Promoting digital literacy at various levels in the education sector.
4. The Focal Points agreed that gender is a crucial cross cutting theme. It should be integrated at all levels of education starting from primary education. The dropout rate of boys in higher education is an issue which COL could look into.
5. Since COL is operating with a multi-sector approach, the Focal Points felt that COL should make efforts to reach other ministries such as agriculture and health.

Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting - Asia

September 25-27, 2011

Penang, Malaysia

The Focal Points Meeting for Asia was held at Wawasan Open University (WOU) Penang, Malaysia from September 25-27, 2011. The meeting was attended by Focal Points and their representatives from Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. (Participants list attached at Annexure A). It was facilitated by Sir John Daniel, President; Prof Asha Kanwar, Vice-President; Mr. John Lesperance Education Specialist: VUSSC and Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Education Specialist: Agriculture and Livelihoods from the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). Dr. R. Sreedher, Director and Mr. R. Thyagarajan, Head of Administration and Finance of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) also attended the Meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Share information about the status of open and distance learning (ODL) in each participating country in the region;
2. Provide a mid-term report of what COL has done in each country; and
3. Identify the education and training priorities that the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) can support in its next Three-Year Plan 2012-2015.

The meeting took place according to the agreed Agenda (Annexure B).



Sunday, September 25, 2011

INAUGURATION SESSION

Welcome and Objectives of Meeting

Sir John Daniel welcomed the participants and thanked the Ministry of Higher Education and Wawasan Open University for taking proactive initiative in organising the Focal Points Meeting. He traced the active cooperation between COL and Malaysia in promoting ODL. Sir John Daniel appreciated the commitment of the Government of Malaysia in promoting lifelong learning. Prof. Dr. Morshidi Sirat, Deputy Director General-Public Sector in the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia outlined the long term perspective which Malaysia is taking in strengthening education and human resource development in Malaysia. He pointed out that the strategies adopted by COL would help in reaching those objectives. Prof. Wong Tat Meng, Vice Chancellor of WOU, felt that the relationship between COL and WOU has helped to strengthen the university. He conveyed his wishes to COL and the participants and assured his support in the smooth functioning of the meeting. He thanked COL for their work in the region and wished the meeting well in the deliberations during the three days.

This was followed by a brief round of introductions by participants.

SESSION 1

Introduction to the Commonwealth of Learning

Sir John Daniel gave an overview of COL.

He highlighted the following:

- The values of the Commonwealth
- The objectives of COL
- Governance structure of COL
- Stakeholder engagement
 - Focal points – country reports and country action plans
 - Signed agreements with Commonwealth Secretariat, UNESCO and other organisations and institutions
- Planning Process:
 - Country Reports
 - Networking
 - Country priorities

What COL offers to countries?

- Expertise in learning and technology
- South-south collaboration

- Development without donors
- Successful and transferable models

COL's expectations from Focal Points:

- Dialogue of priorities
- Track Country Action Plans
- Get involved
- Facilitate country contributions

Sir John Daniel emphasised that COL is not a funding but a facilitating agency providing technical support for ODL for Development. His presentation was followed by discussion. The participants pointed out that since COL is operating with a multi-sector approach, there is a need for stronger advocacy with other ministries. While COL is working with Ministry of Higher Education in most of the countries, other ministries including ministry of education should be brought into the board.



SESSION 2

Introduction to the COL Programme

Prof. Asha Kanwar gave a comprehensive presentation on COL's activities and programmes with a special emphasis on what has been done in Asia. She introduced the participants to the planning processes at COL by sharing the Planning Schedule for the Three Year Plan 2012 – 2015 that includes:

- Focal Points meetings
- Board/Executive Committee Meetings, and
- Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers.

She emphasised the purpose of COL is to create and widen access to opportunities for learning, making use of the potential offered by ODL and by the integration of ICT into education.

She contextualised COL's work vis-à-vis the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Education for ALL (EFA) goals and the Commonwealth priorities by promoting peace, democracy and good governance. She elaborated the issues faced by Commonwealth countries in Asia in achieving MDGs and EFA goals. She pointed out that the initiatives of COL have identified certain strategies which offer scope for addressing MDGs and EFA goals.

She introduced the two sectors that COL is operating in the current Three-Year Plan:

Education

- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)

Livelihoods and Health

- Skills Development
- Learning for Farming
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning

The meeting considered the questions:

- Has COL moved towards the impact statements?
- What can COL do to reach its impact?

The participants pointed out that COL has a diversity of activities with a common focus. They appreciated the Results-Based Management framework of COL with outcome, indicators and impact. Some of the Focal Points who are new felt that the meeting has provided opportunity to make use of COL in their countries.

Sunday, September 25, 2011

SESSIONS 3 AND 4

Challenges and Priorities in the Region

The objectives of the two sessions were to:

1. share information about the status of ODL in each participating country in the region
2. discuss the challenges faced by countries and the scope of ODL addressing those challenges
3. provide a mid-term report of what COL has done in each country, and
4. identify the education and training priorities that COL can support in its next Three-Year Plan 2012-2015.

In this session the facilitators also gave an analysis of the list priorities that were identified by Focal Points in 2008 including the activities that have taken place in Asia in response to the identified priorities.

In groups, the participants deliberated on the following:

1. What are the most critical challenges for the region in the two sectors?
2. What are the approaches that can be applied to address these challenges?
3. What are the major opportunities for the sectors in the region?
4. What are the key sector priorities for the region?

Focal Points also worked to map the sector priorities on a 2x2 matrix with Effort as the X axis and Impact as the Y axis.

SESSION 3

Education Sector - Challenges and Priorities

The session was facilitated by John Lesperance.

The focus of the discussions was around lifelong learning, virtual learning and transnational qualifications. Focal Points made reference to content, especially for delivery on mobile devices.

The Focal Points identified the following challenges for the Education Sector:

1. Open access for all levels of learning
2. Addressing regional imbalance between rural and urban
3. Capacity building for materials development
4. Opportunity for ICT and mobile learning
5. Skill development particularly for vocational and technical education
6. Addressing gap of the students' education between secondary and tertiary education.

The group also proposed the following approaches in order to address the challenges:

1. Establishing Open Schooling system
2. Strengthening ODL system through quality assurance mechanism
3. Training for the master trainer for the Asia region
4. Sharing best practices of use of ICT and mobile technology in education, health and livelihood.

The Focal Points identified the following priorities for the Education Sector:

1. Adopting transnational approach to quality assurance and recognition
2. Mutual recognition of degrees and credit transfer
3. Open Schooling System for secondary level should not only focus on addressing the issue of access but must put a lot of attention on quality and relevance
4. Support conventional educational institutions to make transition to dual mode (F2F and ODL)
5. Lifelong learning
6. Virtual education programme - support for F2F and ODL
7. More public investment in education
8. Teacher education including in-service training.

The group also identified the following opportunities that exist in the region:

1. Increase investment in education (public and private)
2. Sharing expertise to plan and implement best practices
3. Mutual recognition of qualifications for both formal and ODL
4. Exchange mechanisms, including fellowship for all groups of faculty working in the ODL system
5. Develop common a portal for sharing learning resources.

Monday, September 26, 2011

SESSION 4

Livelihood and Health Sector: Challenges and Priorities

The session was facilitated by K. Balasubramanian

The session began with the description of the region. It was pointed out that Asia is not a homogenous region in terms of growth and development. While countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei have stronger economy, India's economy is growing at a higher rate. However in terms of development perspective, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have more or less similar issues. Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Sri Lanka have better Human Development Index particularly in terms of education.

In spite of the heterogeneity, there are certain common issues and challenges which are faced by the Asian countries. The Focal Points identified the following challenges in the Livelihood and Health sector:

1. Unemployment among the burgeoning youth population is one of the major challenges in the region.
2. The lack of entrepreneurship among the youth.
3. In addition to maternal and child health, some parts of Asia are facing health problems arising from affluent lifestyle.
4. Sanitation is a major challenge affecting the community health in many countries.
5. Transition to new agriculture arising out of globalisation and modern technology
6. Some countries which hitherto had not focused on agriculture are planning to strengthen it and hence people without knowledge and experience in agriculture may move into the sector.
7. Digital divide and digital illiteracy particularly in the education sector
8. Gender inequities in education in some of the countries and absence of gender responsive systems in the socio-economic spheres in most of the countries. The lower participation rate of male in higher education in some countries is another major concern.

During the discussions, the Focal Points put forward certain priorities in order to meet the challenges:

1. Emphasis on skill development with specific reference to entrepreneurship. This would require less effort and at the same time would yield greater impact.
2. Focusing on sanitation and hygiene in community health initiatives. This would require more effort and would result in greater impact.
3. Strengthening learning among farming community and providing learning to "new farmers" in some countries. This would require more effort and would result in greater impact.
4. Addressing digital literacy and developing contents through Open Educational Resources (OER). This would require less effort and, at the same time, would yield greater impact.

Some of the strategies discussed during the meetings were:

1. COL should discuss with ministries such as health and agriculture and encourage them to be the partners in COL's activities by convincing them of the advantages of ODL and ICT in education and extension, and showcasing the successful initiatives.
2. Strengthening the OER movement by bringing various stakeholders and bringing content development under the public-private-civil society partnership framework.
3. Continuing and consolidating the ongoing initiatives.
4. Developing customised participatory ODL packages.
5. Providing complimentary support services

SESSION 5

Role of Focal Points

Prof. Kanwar presented the role, responsibilities and functions of Focal Points and John Lesperance facilitated the discussions. In this open discussion session, participants explored the challenges they experienced as Focal Points and suggested networking activities.

During the discussion the following points emerged:

1. COL should continue with current projects.
2. COL should develop advocacy strategies for other ministries such as Agriculture and Health.
3. COL should facilitate interaction with Focal Points and other ministries.
4. COL should showcase the success stories to countries or pilot projects which will help Focal Points to discuss with higher officials.
5. COL should explore the scope of social media through which Focal Points could interact.
6. In the case of multiple Focal Points in one country the roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined.

SESSION 6

COL Gender Programme

Prof. Kanwar and K. Balasubramanian facilitated a discussion on the relevance and need for gender in ODL and described the efforts of COL in making its initiatives gender-sensitive and gender responsive. Prof. Kanwar described the gender dimensions of MDGs and pointed out the gaps in achieving MDGs in terms of gender. The gender policies and the emphasis on gender in COL's initiatives were discussed.

The Focal Points agreed that the gender inequities need to be addressed in the Asian countries. Even in countries with higher Human Development Index, there are gender issues, particularly in education which need to be addressed. They felt that ODL, through institutions such as open schools and open

universities and ICT-based non-formal education, can help to address the gender issues. The following suggestions were made to mainstream gender in ODL and education.

1. Sharing of best practices in gender sensitive and gender-responsive ODL with the institutions in the participating countries.
2. Gender to be an important component in the Quality Assurance Framework which will make the focus on gender mandatory in institutions.
3. Strengthening the capacity building process on gender mainstreaming in ODL institutions.
4. Issues such as female infanticide, gender-based violence in the society should be addressed through education and learning. Such a process should start from the pre-school stage onwards.
5. Similar to Child Friendly Schools, the concept of Girl Friendly Schools should also be looked into.
6. The declining enrolment rate of boys in higher education in some countries is another important issue.
7. Leadership and entrepreneurship training for women.



Tuesday, September 27, 2011

SESSION 7

Priorities for the next Three Year Plan

Prof. Kanwar introduced the session by analysing the priorities identified by the Focal Points in the two previous sessions and presented the Draft Logic Model for 2012-2015.

Participants identified in groups the education and training priorities that COL can incorporate in each one of the initiatives in its next Three-Year Plan 2012-2015.

Vision and Mission

Participants were in agreement with what was proposed but suggested a few points for consideration.

- The vision statement should not be a generic development fact.
- The vision statement should define the role, roadmap and the goal of the organisation.
- The vision statement should also bring in the intellectual and thought leadership role of COL in learning for development.
- COL should be looking at the relevance of the outcome statement vis-à-vis the impact statement.

The following vision statement was suggested:

- COL will be recognised as the foremost agency promoting development through learning.

With regard to the initiatives the following points were suggested:

- Open Schooling could consider developing regular schools into dual mode.
- Teacher Education should also consider the upgrading and competences of teachers.
- Higher Education could look into government policies for mutual recognition and accreditation.
- VUSSC could place more emphasis on delivery.

SESSION 8

Valediction and Closing

Some of the interesting points mentioned during the discussions were:

- VUSSC has made an impact making the Maldives create good awareness of ODL in the country. Now even the Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) is recognising ODL.
- Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has benefitted from COL training in the early days and has directly resulted in the promotion of ODL. Wawasan Open University on the other hand is making use of COL ODL materials and the Chancellor is an associate of COL.
- COL Executive MBA/MPA Programme (CEMBA/MPA) was started in 2003 by Allama Iqbal Open University. So far, about 3,900 students have taken admission in this programme from the year

2003 to 2010. The programme is based on credit accumulation with the minimum duration to complete CEMBA/MPA is two years and maximum duration is five years.

The Focal Points recommended certain country-specific activities:

- Training and retraining of teachers in the use of ICT is a very top priority for Brunei, given that COL is strong on ODL, maybe there is an area of collaboration.
- To work closer with COL and getting more institutions involved in VUSSC.
- eLearning is another programme that Brunei could get help with.
- To help India adopt a transnational approach to quality assurance and accreditation by developing international benchmarking of standards and practices.
- COL can help to push mobile learning in rural communities.
- Help to support Open Schooling especially for girls in countries like Pakistan
- Skills development for youth in Brunei and Malaysia with focus on entrepreneurship needs to be addressed.
- Learning for farming could also be introduced in Malaysia and Brunei

Focal Points were also asked to send any feedback by email to Professor Asha Kanwar.

Sir John Daniel closed the workshop thanking:

- the Ministries of Higher Education, Malaysia for hosting the workshop;
- Prof. Dr. Rujhan Mustafa. Director General and Prof. Dr. Morshidi Sirat;
- support staff from the Ministry of Higher Education;
- Focal Points and their representatives ;
- Prof. Kanwar, K. Balasubramanian, John Lesperance, of COL; R. Sreedhar and R. Thyagarajan CEMCA; and
- COL support staff in Vancouver, Canada who made all the arrangements and prepared documentation.

In his valedictory address, Sir John Daniel thanked the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia and Wawasan Open University for their support and proactive role in organising the meeting. He also thanked all Focal Points present, COL staff participating in the meeting and also those who have helped in organising this meeting from Vancouver. He assured the Focal Points that COL would discuss the issues raised by them with other stakeholders and finalise its Three Year Plan.

The workshop concluded with a field visit organised the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) to the University Sains Malaysia (USM), an apex research institution with the motto “Transforming Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow”. This was followed by a visit to the Buddhist temple on the outskirts of Penang.



REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING (ASIA)
September 25-27, 2011

Participants' List

FOCAL POINTS/ALTERNATES

| Country | Name of Focal Point/representative |
|-------------------|--|
| BANGLADESH | <p>Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Khan (<i>regrets</i>) Private Secretary to the Prime Minister Prime Minister's Office Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Tejgaon Dhaka Bangladesh</p> <p>Tel: 880 2-8151157-Office Cell: 880 1841225555/880 171633902 Email: nikhanjs@gmail.com</p> |
| BRUNEI DARUSSALAM | <p>Mr. Adinin Md Salleh Acting Executive Secretary Secretariat of Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council Ministry of Education Lapangan Terbang Lama Jalan Berakas Bandar Seri Begawan BB3510 Brunei Darussalam</p> <p>Tel: 673 2 381 133 Email: adininsalleh@gmail.com</p> |
| INDIA | <p>Mr. Upamanyu Basu Director Higher Education Government of India Shastri Bhavan New Delhi – 110 001 India</p> <p>Tel: 91 9899203548 Email: ubasu.edu@nic.in</p> |

| Country | Name of Focal Point/representative |
|----------|---|
| | <p><i>MR. BASU IS REPRESENTING SHRI AMIT KHARE AT THE MEETING.</i></p> <p>Shri. Amit Khare, Joint Secretary, Bureau of BP & CR Education Policy, UNESCO, INC & ICC Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of India Shastri Bhavan New Delhi – 110 001 India</p> <p>Tel. 91-11-23381097, 91-11-23071355 E-mail: khareamit.edu@nic.in</p> |
| MALAYSIA | <p>Professor Dr. Morshidi Sirat Deputy Director General Department of Higher Education Ministry of Higher Education 9th Floor No. 2 Menara 2 Jalan P5/6 62200 Putrajaya Malaysia</p> <p>Tel: 03-8870 6390 Email: morshidi@mohe.gov.my</p> <p><i>PROFESSOR DR. MORSHIDI IS REPRESENTING PROF. DR. RUJHAN BIN MUSTAFA AT THE MEETING.</i></p> <p>Professor Dr. Rujhan bin Mustafa (<i>attended the last day</i>) Director General Department of Higher Education Ministry of Higher Education 9th Floor No. 2 Menara 2 Jalan P5/6 62200 Putrajaya Malaysia</p> <p>Tel: 03-8870 6381/0 Email: mrujhan@mohe.gov.my</p> |

ANNEXURE A

| Country | Name of Focal Point/representative |
|-----------|--|
| MALDIVES | <p>Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef Director Centre for Open Learning Nikagas Magu Malé Maldives</p> <p>Tel: 960 334 5189 Cell: 960 790 4710 Email: a.f.shareef@gmail.com</p> |
| MALDIVES | <p>Ms. Jameela Ali (<i>regrets</i>) Head of External Relations Ministry of Education Ghaazee Building Ameer Ahmed Magu Male Maldives</p> <p>Tel : 960 334 1234 Cell : 960 777 4496 Email: jameela@moe.gov.mv</p> |
| PAKISTAN | <p>Professor Dr. Parveen Munshi Dean Faculty of Education University of Sindh Elsa Kazi Campus Hyderabad 76080 Pakistan</p> <p>Tel: 92 300 301 9413 (cell)/92 22 9200 158 (office) Email: munshiparveen@gmail.com</p> |
| SINGAPORE | <p>Ms. Mandy Cheng (<i>regrets</i>) Asst. Director for International Relations and Planning Ministry of Education 1 North Buona Vista Drive Singapore 138 675</p> <p>Tel: 65 6872 2220 Email: Mandy_Cheng@moe.gov.sg</p> |

| Country | Name of Focal Point/representative |
|-----------|--|
| SRI LANKA | <p>Mr. N.H.M. Chitrananda Additional Secretary Administration and Finance Ministry of Education "Isurupaya" Battaramlla Sri Lanka</p> <p>Tel: 94 11-2784814 Cell: 94 773565717 Email: nhm_chitrananda@yahoo.com</p> <p><i>MR. N.H.M. CHITRANANDA IS REPRESENTING MR. S.U. WIJERATHNE AT THE MEETING</i></p> <p>Mr. S.U. Wijerathne Additional Secretary Policy and Planning Unit Ministry of Education "Isurupaya" Battaramlla Sri Lanka</p> <p>Tel: 94 11 278 5574/Cell: 94 77 963 322 Home: 94 11 240 4771 Email addsecppr@gmail.com</p> |

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| <p>SIR JOHN DANIEL President & Chief Executive Officer</p> | <p>Tel: 1 604 775 8200 Email: jdaniel@col.org</p> <p>Personal Assistant – Annette Bacchus Tel: 1 604 775 8264 Email: abacchus@col.org</p> |
| <p>PROFESSOR ASHA KANWAR Vice President</p> | <p>Tel: 1 604 775 8226 Email: akanwar@col.org</p> <p>Executive Assistant – Jasmine Lee Tel: 1 604 775 8230 Email: jlee@col.org</p> |
| <p>DR. K. BALASUBRAMANIAN Education Specialist – Agriculture & Livelihoods & Team Leader – Livelihoods & Health</p> | <p>Tel: 1 604 775 8224 Email: kbala@col.org</p> <p>Programme Assistant – Carol Walker Tel: 1 604 775 8232 Email: cwalker@col.org</p> |
| <p>MR. JOHN LESPERANCE Education Specialist – VUSSC</p> | <p>Tel: 1 604 775 8222 Email: jlesperance@col.org</p> <p>Programme Assistant – Patricia Schlicht Tel: 1 604 775 8227 Email: pschlicht@col.org</p> |

ANNEXURE A

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE FOR ASIA (CEMCA)

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|--|---|
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REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING (Asia)

Details

Date: 25-27 September 2011
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 16:00 p.m.
 Place: Wawasan Open University

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to;

- 1) Share information about the status of open and distance learning (ODL) in each participating country;
- 2) Provide a mid-term report of what COL has done in each country; and
- 3) Identify the education and training priorities that COL can support in its next Three Year Plan 2012-2015.

Draft Agenda

Sunday, September 25, 2011

Expected Outcomes:

At the end of the day participants will:

- Understand the value, mission, structure & function of the Commonwealth of Learning;
- Have an overview of COL's Programme in the Three Year Plan 2009 – 2012; and
- Identify challenges and priorities to consider in the Education Sector for Asia.

| Time | Session | Format | Facilitator/Presenter |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| 9:00 – 10:00 | <i>Inauguration (Opening Ceremony)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and objectives of meeting • Introduction to COL • Round of introductions by participants | | Sir John Daniel, Prof. Wong and Prof. Dr. Morshidi Sirat All |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Tea/Coffee and Group Photo | | |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | <i>Session 1</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda • Overview of COL: Value, Mission, Structure & Function • Questions and answers | Plenary presentation Plenary discussions | Sir John Daniel |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | <i>Session 2 Introduction to COL Programme</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the COL Programme | Plenary presentation | Prof Asha Kanwar |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch | | |

ANNEXURE B

| Time | Session | Format | Facilitator/Presenter |
|---------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| 13:00 – 14:15 | Session 3 Education Sector – Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session Introduction – Analysis of priorities identified in Asia in 2008 & activities addressing it Challenges in the Education Sector in Asia Group Report and discussions | Plenary presentation 2 Groups - group work Groups report back Plenary discussions | Mr. John Lesperance |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | Tea/Coffee | | |
| 14:45 – 15:45 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities in the Education Sector Group Report and discussions | 2 Groups - group work Groups report back Plenary discussions | Mr. John Lesperance |
| 7:30 | Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education | | |

Monday, September 26, 2011

Expected Outcomes:

At the end of the day participants will:

- Identify challenges and priorities to consider in the Livelihoods and Health Sector for the Asia;
- Have an awareness of how gender fits within COL's programme and how they can better support the organisation's gender-inclusive mandate and programme activities; and
- Review and clarify the role, responsibilities and expectations of Focal Points; address challenges experienced by Focal Points; and propose Focal Point Networking activities.

| Time | Session | Format | Facilitator/Presenter |
|----------------|--|--|---|
| 9:00 – 10:15 | Session 4 Livelihoods and Health Sector – Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session Introduction – Analysis of priorities identified in Asia in 2008 and activities addressing it Challenges in the Livelihoods and Health Sector in Asia Group Report and discussions | Plenary presentation 2 Groups - group work Groups report back Plenary discussions | Dr. K. Balasubramanian |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Tea/Coffee | | |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities in the Livelihoods and Health Sector Group Report and discussions Priority Grid | 2 Groups - group work Groups report back Plenary discussions Plenary discussions | Dr. K. Balasubramanian |
| 11:45 – 12:45 | Session 5 Role of Focal Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role, responsibilities and functions of Focal Points Challenges experienced by Focal Points Focal Point Networking activities | Plenary presentation and Group work Plenary discussions | Prof Asha Kanwar and Mr. John Lesperance |
| 12:45 – 13 :45 | Lunch | | |

ANNEXURE B

| Time | Session | Format | Facilitator/Presenter |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| 13:45 – 15:00 | Session 6: Gender | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand gender at different levels Identify good and bad practices Ideas for gender programming | Group work Group work and plenary report | Prof Asha Kanwar and Dr. K. Balasubramanian |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Tea/Coffee | | |
| 7:15 p.m. | To meet at Hotel Lobby | | |
| 7:30 p.m. | <i>Dinner hosted by the Commonwealth of Learning Café Laurel, Evergreen Laurel Hotel</i> | | |

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Expected Outcomes:

At the end of the day participants will have identified education and training priorities that COL can incorporate in its next Three Year Plan 2012 – 15.

| Time | Session | Format | Facilitator/Presenter |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| 9:00 – 11:00 | Session 7 Priorities for next Three-Year Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Logic Model for 2012 – 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the external environment that COL will work in? Identifying the exact needs in Asia How to address cross-cutting issues? Presentation of a synthesised report on priorities | Plenary presentation Presentation Group work Group work Plenary presentation | Professor Asha Kanwar Dr. K. Balasubramanian Mr. John Lesperance |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Tea/Coffee | | |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Session 8 Valediction and Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valediction- Please select one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify one thing that COL has done that has made a difference in your country <i>or</i> Specify one thing that COL could do better in your country. Discussions Closing | Individual report Plenary discussions | Sir John Daniel |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch – | | |
| 14:00 | <i>Sightseeing organised by the Ministry of Higher Education</i> | | |
| 7:00 p.m. | <i>Reception (cocktail and dinner) hosted by Wawasan Open University Heritage Homestead Building, WOU Campus, (Cocktail at Homestead “Loft” from 7 p.m.; Dinner at Homestead “Hall” for 8 p.m.)</i> | | |

Facilitators: Sir John Daniel, Prof Asha Kanwar, Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Mr. John Lesperance

Rapporteurs: Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Mr. John Lesperance