The Global Forum for Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education
Distance Learning Across Borders: Cultural Imperialism or Intellectual Independence?

Sir John Daniel
President
Commonwealth of Learning
Bridging the Divide:
Building capacity for post-secondary education through cross-border provision

Building Capacity in
Open and Distance Learning

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President – Commonwealth of Learning
Capacity Building in Open and Distance Learning
Bridging the Divide:
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Open and Distance Learning for Development

Sir John Daniel
President – Commonwealth of Learning
OPEN LEARNING
=
Learning without barriers
DISTANCE EDUCATION

= Separation of teacher and learner
OPEN LEARNING is NOT the same as DISTANCE EDUCATION
OPEN LEARNING is NOT the same as DISTANCE EDUCATION

BUT, they are complementary.

Therefore: ODL
Newer terms:

- online learning
- eLearning
- virtual learning

= tied to a computer?
Newer terms:

- online learning
- eLearning
- virtual learning

= media (paper, print, ++++)
ODL is a DEVELOPMENT tool
Because:
- It reaches the marginalized
- It gives scale with consistency
DEVELOPMENT is the enhancement of FREEDOM

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What freedoms?

8 Millennium Development Goals
UNESCO/OECD Australia Forum on Trade in Educational Services

Bridging the Divide: Building capacity for post-secondary education through cross-border provision
The Purpose: Building Capacity for the Millennium Development Goals
Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Gender equality
- Health
- Environment
- Partnership
Poverty and hunger

Target (2015):

Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

Fighting hunger and sustaining a liveable environment means empowering millions of farmers and smallholders and giving rural people more control over their lives.
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Consortium Group on International Agricultural Research
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

Virtual Academy of the Semi-Arid Tropics
Lifelong learning for farmers
Primary education

Target (2015)

Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

The bottleneck to achieving primary education and gender parity is the training and retraining of millions of teachers. Success at primary level will create huge pressure at secondary level.
Teacher Training
Gender equality

Target (2005)

Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education
Gender equality

Target (2015)

Eliminate gender disparities at all levels of education
Women and ICTs
Gender Resources

www.colfinder.org/dev
Health

- Reduce child mortality
  By 2015: reduce by 2/3 the mortality rate for under fives

- Improve maternal health
  By 2015: Reduce by ¾ the ratio of women dying in childbirth

- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
  By 2015: Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

To improve the health of mothers and children and arrest the spread of disease, ordinary people want information that connects with their lives.
Partnership with the WHO
COL works in partnership

* Partnership with the WHO

* Radio programming
Environment

Environmental sustainability

Integrate principles of SD into policy

By 2015:
Reduce by $\frac{1}{2}$ those without safe water
Improve lives of > 100 million in slums
COL focuses on Education for Sustainable Development
Partnership

- Various targets:
  - Good governance and poverty reduction
  - Small islands and landlocked states
  - Decent and productive work for youth
  - Spreading benefits of ICTs
Global Partnership

* Good governance
* Small States, Youth & Technology
Media Empowerment
The use of human reason, and the knowledge that flows from it, is the key to enabling all people to enjoy healthy and decent lives.
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT
Learning & Living with Technology

THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS