

Connections



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New Zealand increases contribution by 150%

New Zealand has announced a significant increase in its financial partnership with COL. Responding to calls from Commonwealth Heads of Government when they met in this country late last year, New Zealand has followed Britain's announcement earlier this year, which extended its commitment to a further three-year funding cycle. For the 1996/97 financial year, the **Government of New Zealand** will provide NZ\$250,000 as its share in COL's core operating budget.

Ministers of Education in the Caribbean have also recently pledged their solid support with a three-year regional commitment.

Noting his expectation that the coming financial year will also see the addition of **Malaysia** and **South Africa** to the growing list of ongoing financial partners, COL President, **Dato' Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan**, welcomed all of these "votes of confidence as the organisation continues in its quest for a secure financial footing."

A total of 28 Commonwealth countries have made financial contributions to COL's core operating budget to date – and this is expected to top 30 by next year. While receiving a substantial initial contribution from **Brunei Darussalam** almost a decade ago, and continuing to receive solid sustaining support from **Canada**, the Canadian **Province of British Columbia**, **Britain**, **India** and **Australia**, many projects would not be possible without the additional participation by several other developing countries. They contribute what they can, usually accompanied by enthusiastic words of appreciation for the services that have been provided.

During the 1995/96 financial year (ending June 30), funding grants were received from **Bangladesh**, **Barbados**, **Belize**, **Ghana**, **Guyana**, **Jamaica**, **Kenya**, **Malta**, **Namibia**, **New Zealand**, **St. Lucia**, **Trinidad & Tobago** and **Zimbabwe** (in addition to the sustaining supporters noted above). Special mention should go to new participants for this year, **Belize** and **Kenya**.

COL is equally appreciative of the additional project funding that it has been entrusted with by organisations such as the

UK and New Zealand Overseas Development Administrations, the Canada Training Awards Programme, Canada's International Development Research Centre, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Asian Development Bank.

Increasing efforts are being directed toward alternative financial sources such as these.

Detailed accounting is prepared annually through COL's audited financial statements and in condensed form in annual or summary reports (*Summary Report 1994 - 1996* will be published in July 1996).

New governance in place

Amendments to COL's September 1988 *Memorandum of Understanding* were agreed to at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held late last year in Auckland, New Zealand. Included in the changes that Commonwealth Governments approved are:

- an altered structure and reduced size for COL's Board of Governors;
- revisions to the terms of reference for the Board;

- a reduction in the number, but retention of a provision for the Board to "invite up to three persons representing Governments or organisations contributing to or otherwise significantly assisting COL's activities to participate on an advisory basis in the deliberations of the Board."

Please see the side-bar on page two for an outline of the reconstituted Board of Governors and its advisers. An inaugural meeting was held in Vancouver, 8 - 10 June 1996.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and Commonwealth member Governments, Board Chairman **Dr. H. Ian Macdonald** expresses appreciation for the significant contributions made by the following former Board members whose terms of office concluded at the end of 1995: **Dr. M.M. Bunza** (National Teachers' Institute, Nigeria), **Professor Walter Kamba** (Zimbabwe/University of Namibia), **Dr. Lydia Makhubu** (University of Swaziland), **The Hon. Sir Alister McIntyre** (University of the West Indies, Jamaica), **Professor Julius Odurkene** (Makerere University, Uganda), and **Mr. William Renwick** (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand).



New members of COL's Board of Governors, John Samuel (left), from the South African Ministry of Education, and the University of Ghana's Esi Sutherland-Addy, in attendance at June 1996 meeting in Vancouver.

Board of Governors

On 1 January 1996, COL's Board of Governors was reconstituted, welcoming five new members: **Mr. P.R. Dasgupta** (India), **Dr. Marlene Hamilton** (Jamaica), **Mr. John Samuel** (South Africa), **Mrs. Esi Sutherland-Addy** (Ghana), and **Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali** (Pakistan).

The new Board was also privileged to have invitations accepted by former Zimbabwe Minister of Education, **Ms. Fay Chung** (UNICEF) and **Datuk Dr. Johari Bin Mat** (Government of Malaysia) to serve as advisers.

CHAIRMAN

*Dr. H. Ian Macdonald**
President Emeritus,
York University (Canada)

MEMBERS

(*denotes member of Executive Committee)

Commonwealth Secretary General
*His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku**

Appointments by Donor Organisations

GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA
Professor C.D. Blake
Vice Chancellor,
Charles Sturt University

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Mr. Shell Harvey
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Post-Secondary Education
Division, Ministry of Education,
Skills and Training

GOVERNMENT OF BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
Dato' Paduka Haji Ali Hashim bin Haji Daud
Permanent Secretary, Ministry
of Education

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

*The Honourable Iona Campagnolo**
Chancellor, University of Northern
British Columbia

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

*Mr. P.R. Dasgupta**
Education Secretary, Department of
Education, Ministry of Human
Resource Development

GOVERNMENT OF

THE UNITED KINGDOM

*Ms. Myra Harrison**
Chief Education Adviser,
Overseas Development
Administration

Regional Appointments on the Advice of Commonwealth Ministers of Education

AFRICA

Mr. John Samuel
Deputy Director-General,
Education & Training Systems &
Resources, National Ministry of
Education (South Africa)

ASIA

Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali
Special Assistant for Social Sector,
Prime Minister's Secretariat
(Pakistan)

CARIBBEAN

*Dr. Marlene Hamilton**
Pro-Vice Chancellor,
Student and Alumni Relations,
University of the West Indies
(Jamaica)

PACIFIC

*The Honourable
Dr. S. Langi Kavaliku*
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Education,
Works and Civil Aviation (Tonga)

Appointment by the Common- wealth Secretary General

Mrs. Esi Sutherland-Addy
Institute of African Studies,
University of Ghana

President (Ex-Officio)

*Dato' Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan**
President & C.E.O.,
The Commonwealth of Learning

ADVISERS

Ms. Fay Chung
Chief, Education Cluster,
United Nations Children Fund
(UNICEF)

Datuk Dr. Johari Bin Mat
Secretary General,
Ministry of Education
(Government of Malaysia)

COL in the Caribbean

Community radio broadcasting

COL has provided the equipment and completed the installation and training for a portable, low-power, low-cost community radio broadcasting system at the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) in Port Antonio, Jamaica. Interim President of CASE, **Mrs. Jean Beaumont**, inaugurated the radio station on 28 May 1996.

The facility will be used for educational broadcasting of agricultural and science information to the two adjoining campuses and surrounding area, as well as for administrative matters such as general college announcements and presentations. It is licensed to operate at 88.3 MHz on the FM radio band under the call sign CASE.

COL joined forces with a Canadian manufacturer, Total Point Inc., to design the broadcasting system specifically for this type of use. Initially, COL provided a station for evaluation by the First Nations Band at Upper Liard in Canada's north. An installation in Belize is next on the list and others will follow. Please contact COL for further information.

Belize gains audio-conferencing

COL has provided an audio-teleconferencing system for use by the Ministry of Education in Belize. Installed this month, the system will now enable the Ministry to establish direct and simultaneous communication links with district offices, without incurring the high costs of travel. Teleconferences are operated and controlled from the Belize Teachers College (BTC) where the "bridging" equipment is housed and where staff have received COL training.

The BTC will also be able to use the technology to offer courses to teachers located in outlying districts and can now conduct teleconferences with educational institutions in other countries, such as the University of the West Indies Distance Teaching Enterprise (UWIDITE) and similar COL installations throughout the Caribbean.

News from South Africa

National distance education body established

A new **National Association of Distance Education Organisations** (NADEOSA) has been formed in South Africa. Its founding members are major public providers, non-governmental organisations, specialised associations, and the newly established Open Learning Association of South Africa. Its founding meeting and conference will be held on 2 August 1996.

NADEOSA's objectives relate to facilitating collaboration; advocating awareness, under

Ram Reddy remembered

The late Professor G. Ram Reddy made significant contributions to the advancement of distance education in both India and throughout the world, including his important roles in the establishment and subsequent development of The Commonwealth of Learning. COL is pleased to announce that it will be commemorating the memory of Professor Reddy in the following ways.

- The two major *COL/ICDE Awards of Excellence*, in recognition of individual achievement in distance education, will now be designated the **G. Ram Reddy Memorial Awards**. The awards are presented biannually in conjunction with International Council for Distance Education World Conferences. Professor Reddy was presented with one of the first Awards of Excellence in June 1995, just prior to his death.
- COL and India's Indira Gandhi National Open University have jointly sponsored the establishment of an annual lecture series to be called the **G. Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture**. Professor Reddy was founding Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU. In Delhi, on July 2, 1996, the first anniversary of Professor Reddy's death, COL's President, Dato' Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan will deliver the first G. Ram Reddy

Memorial Lecture: *Face to Face with Distance Education*.

- COL will be contributing to the recently established **G. Ram Reddy Memorial Trust**. In memory of Professor Reddy, COL President, Dato' Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan will deliver a keynote presentation on *Partnerships in Open Learning* at the inauguration of the Trust on 4 July 1996 in Hyderabad, India.

COL wins ADB work

COL is pleased to have been selected by the Asian Development Bank to undertake a regional technical assistance project on its behalf. The project will be implemented in co-operation with the UNESCO regional office in Bangkok and is in support of the UNESCO-led *DE9* initiative, which concentrates on the nine most-populated countries in the world as related to the broader *Education for All* programme. The project will focus on capacity building in distance education for primary teacher training in the five high population countries in Asia: **Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the People's Republic of China**.

As one part of the project, COL will develop workshop training materials, which will also be published and distributed as resources for application elsewhere.

standing, and application of distance education, promoting research and evaluation, exerting influence on policy (and funding), advancing the professional interests of practitioners, and promoting and enhancing quality assurance.

As an association fully representative of the distance education sector, NADEOSA should enjoy much credibility in the pursuit of its objectives. COL welcomes this development, extends its best wishes, and offers its fullest co-operation. We look forward to working with NADEOSA as we do with similar national and regional bodies throughout the Commonwealth.

Technology enhanced learning studied

The Government of South Africa has initiated an investigation into the potential of *technology enhanced learning*, within the scope of open and distance learning, as a viable alternative to conventional education.

"The dimensions of South Africa's learning deficit are so vast in relation to the needs of the people that a completely fresh approach to the provision of learning opportunities is required," says **Dr. Abdul Khan**, COL's Acting Head of Communications and Information Technologies, one of three international experts appointed by the Minister of Education to serve on the ten-member Investigation Committee.

The final report, which will include policy and planning proposals, is expected by the end of July 1996.



People

The Honourable Mr. Justice Ken Lysyk has been appointed Associate Director of the National Judicial Institute in Canada. He will now divide his time between Institute activities and regular judicial duties. Mr. Justice Lysyk has been President of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, is a member of the International Commission of Jurists, and has played key roles in COL's judicial education initiatives. A former professor, Dean of Law, and Deputy Attorney-General, he has been on the bench of the Supreme Court of British Columbia since 1993 and is also attached to several other Canadian courts. In this new role, his further contributions to the application of distance

education to continuing judicial education in Canada are expected to be significant.

As a COL consultant, **Mr. Roger Mills**, Director of the East Anglia Region for the UK Open University, spent two weeks in June with the University of Guyana, assisting in the development of a distance education action plan. This is the initial phase in a process of transforming the University into a dual mode institution and is a follow-up to an earlier COL consultancy by **Professor M.B. Menon**, of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, which explored the feasibility of such a conversion. Professor Menon has since been appointed as Chairman of India's National Open School.

In addition to appearances noted elsewhere in this edition of *Connections*, COL President, **Dato' Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan** delivered addresses to Association of Commonwealth Universities Executive Heads on *Quality Assurance and Distance Education* (Malta: March 1996), Rotary Club of Vancouver (April 1996), a British Council "quality assurance in open learning in higher education seminar" on *Setting up Open Universities* (Bedford, UK: April 1996), and the Canadian Association for Distance Education on *Distance Education: Crossing the Distance in the Commonwealth* (Moncton, Canada: May 1996). Later this year, also in addition to those noted elsewhere, the President will be a keynote speaker at the Commonwealth Girl Guides Associations Chief Commissioner's Conference (Victoria, Canada: July 1996), the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association General Conference on *New Technologies for Distance Education* (Malaysia: August 1996), the Fifth Asia Pacific Conference on Student Affairs on *Virtual Support for the Virtual Student: Meeting Student Needs in a new Educational Technology Environment* (Sydney, Australia: October 1996), and the 25th Anniversary of the International Extension College (Cambridge, UK: October 1996).

Events

The Technological Isle: Singapore, August 1996

Singapore is where you will find two world-class conferences taking place back-to-back in mid August 1996. Aided by the world's foremost experts in educational technology, practitioners of all kinds will meet to discuss what the future can hold and which dreams are now realities.

Universities in the 21st Century: Education in a Borderless World - 13 - 14 August 1996. This colloquium will explore the question of whether technology can help us create a "global university." It is sponsored by IDP Education Australia in conjunction with The British Council and will feature several discussion themes, presented by world renowned experts. COL President, **Dato' Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan**, will lead discussion on "Partnerships or Paternalism."

Educational Technology 2000: A Global Vision for Open and Distance Learning -



15 - 17 August 1996. This major conference and integrated exhibition on educational technology is sponsored jointly by The Commonwealth of Learning and the Asian Mass Communications Research and Information Centre (AMIC) and will address the potential of emerging technologies to deal with the challenges of mass education. Newly confirmed keynote speakers include:

- **Dr. S.D. Ndlovu**, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Republic of Zimbabwe. Dr. Ndlovu, who has over 30 years experience in distance education, is steering a project to establish an open university in Zimbabwe. As a distance education advocate, his keynote address will highlight issues facing educational access in developing countries, particularly in Southern Africa.
- **Dr. Peter Knight**, Chief, Electronic Media Centre, The World Bank. Dr. Knight's address is entitled, "Leap-frogging to Twenty-first Century Learning Systems: New Opportunities for Developing and Transitional Countries." The speaker is a strong advocate of the use of electronic media for open and distance learning particularly in developing and transitional countries.

For further information and registration details, contact:

Universities in the 21st Century:
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Educational Technology 2000:
Dr. Abdul Khan, A/Head,
Communications and
Information Technologies,
The Commonwealth of Learning.
e-mail: akhan@col.org
World Wide Web:
<http://www.col.org/et2000.htm>

LETA '96

Learning Environment Technology Australia - Adelaide, South Australia: 29 September - 4 October 1996. This is the second in a series of international education events exploring the role technology is playing, and will play in the future, in the global learning environment. LETA '96 will include symposia, master classes, video conference links, keynote addresses, small group workshops, site visits

and exhibitions. COL's President, **Dato' Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan**, will be one of the keynote speakers.

LETA '96 is hosted by several Australian distance education organisations. Contact: LETA '96, c/o SAPMEA Conventions, 80 Brougham Place, North Adelaide, SA 5006 Australia; tel: 618.239.1515; fax: 618.239.1566; e-mail: conv@sapmea.asn.au World Wide Web: <http://www.leta.edu.au>

Caribbean Education Ministers pledge support for COL

At the Eleventh Meeting of their Standing Conference (Barbados: April 1996), Caribbean Education Ministers unanimously assured COL that it had their moral and financial support, and that they will speak with one voice in this regard when Commonwealth Education Ministers meet in Botswana next year.

In his presentation to the meeting, COL's President outlined COL's achievements and plans for the future, but drew attention to the failure of the present funding arrangement to provide COL with a secure budget. He requested the Ministers to consider adopting a modified form of "formula volunteerism" as a means of addressing the problem. The Ministers concurred and agreed to urge other Commonwealth member states "to implement the decision of Heads of Government that COL's budget be placed on a more secure financial footing, in order to ensure that the organisation can continue to contribute significantly to the progress of education in the countries which it serves."

While in Barbados, Dr. Dhanarajan also met with members of the Association of Caribbean Chief Education Officers. They discussed COL's work in the region and the role of the Association in advancing it.

Non-formal education

At a recent inter-agency meeting, convened by COL in Washington, DC (April 1996), development agencies agreed to set up a working group to promote open and distance learning approaches in non-formal education.

To launch discussions, the 28 participants considered the findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the COL/International Extension College (**Dr. Tony Dodds'**) survey report, *The Use of Distance Learning in Non-Formal Education* (see "New Publications" on this page).

Participants agreed on the significant potential of non-formal education in reaching the large number of adults who have been left out of the educational systems in developing countries – and emphasised the need for development agencies to share their experiences in order to formulate effective strategies. The group also noted that there was a need for further in-depth case studies and projects in the field.

A funding proposal to support the development of selected case studies as suggested in the Dodds' report is being jointly prepared by the International Extension College and COL. Agreement has also been reached with

the International Centre for Distance Learning to incorporate information concerning non-formal education programmes in its database.



New publications

The following titles have been published recently by The Commonwealth of Learning and are available upon request. COL charges nominal shipping and handling costs on publications orders from institutions in developed and non-Commonwealth countries. Pre-payments or purchase orders are required.

- ***The Use of Distance Learning in Non-Formal Education*** – a report on a survey carried out for The Commonwealth of Learning by the International Extension College, UK (The Commonwealth of Learning/IEC, 1996). Prepared by Dr. Tony Dodds, the report documents information on 73 projects, in 56 developing countries and 17 industrialised countries, and presents a number of conclusions and proposals for further action. The survey found that there is considerable activity in non-formal distance education but that it is not well documented. It notes that non-formal distance education projects are often poorly funded, which often leads to low quality, disappointing results, and lack of sustainability. (63 pages)
- ***Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development***. This core module was collaboratively developed and written by the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, the International Women's Tribune Centre in New York, and the Summer Institute for Gender and Development (a joint project of Saint Mary's and Dalhousie Universities in Canada) through a project managed and coordinated by COL and funded with the aid of a grant from Canada's International Development Research Centre. This module focuses on the theoretical justification for examining the specific roles and contributions of women to development initiatives. COL is making the module available to governments, educational institutions, NGOs and women's organisations throughout the Commonwealth for local adaptation and use in both traditional and non-formal educational settings. (182 pages)

- The latest issue of *Open Praxis* (1996, Volume 1) contains an exchange of four "open letters" which discuss the globalisation of distance learning and the role of organisations such as The Commonwealth of Learning. **Tony Pritchard**, Managing Director of Open Learning Australia, leads off the discussion with thoughts directed to **Dr. Gajaraj Dhanarajan**, "as you take up the reins at the Commonwealth of Learning." Dr. Dhanarajan responds on behalf of COL and invites further contribution and debate. Commentaries are also included from **Professor Gerald Lalor**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of the West Indies (Jamaica) and **Ms. Janet Jenkins**, distance education consultant. Also appearing in this issue is a report by **Dr. Keith Harry**, Director of the International Centre for Distance Learning, on the 12th Biennial Forum of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA), which was held in Vanuatu in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Regional Association for Distance Education (PIRADE) in September 1995. *Open Praxis* is published semi-annually by the International Council for Distance Education.

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President & CEO:
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Further details on any news item that appears in *Connections* may be obtained by contacting COL's Public Affairs Office, or visiting our World Wide Web site.

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING