

# The Commonwealth of Learning



Learning for Development

**ACCESS TO  
QUALITY EDUCATION**

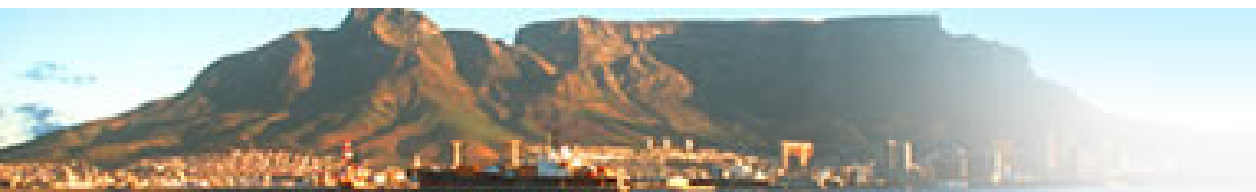


**FOR THE GOOD OF ALL**

# Presentation to Senior Officials

11 December 2006

Commonwealth of Learning

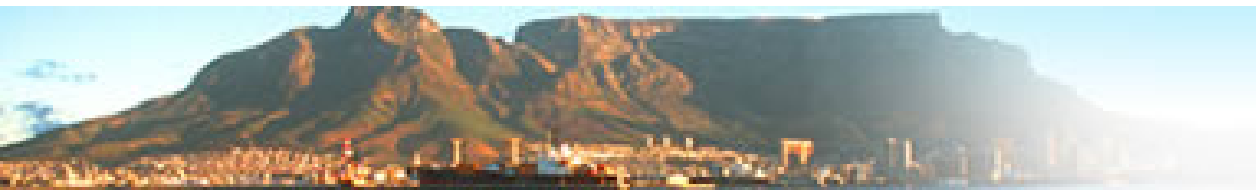


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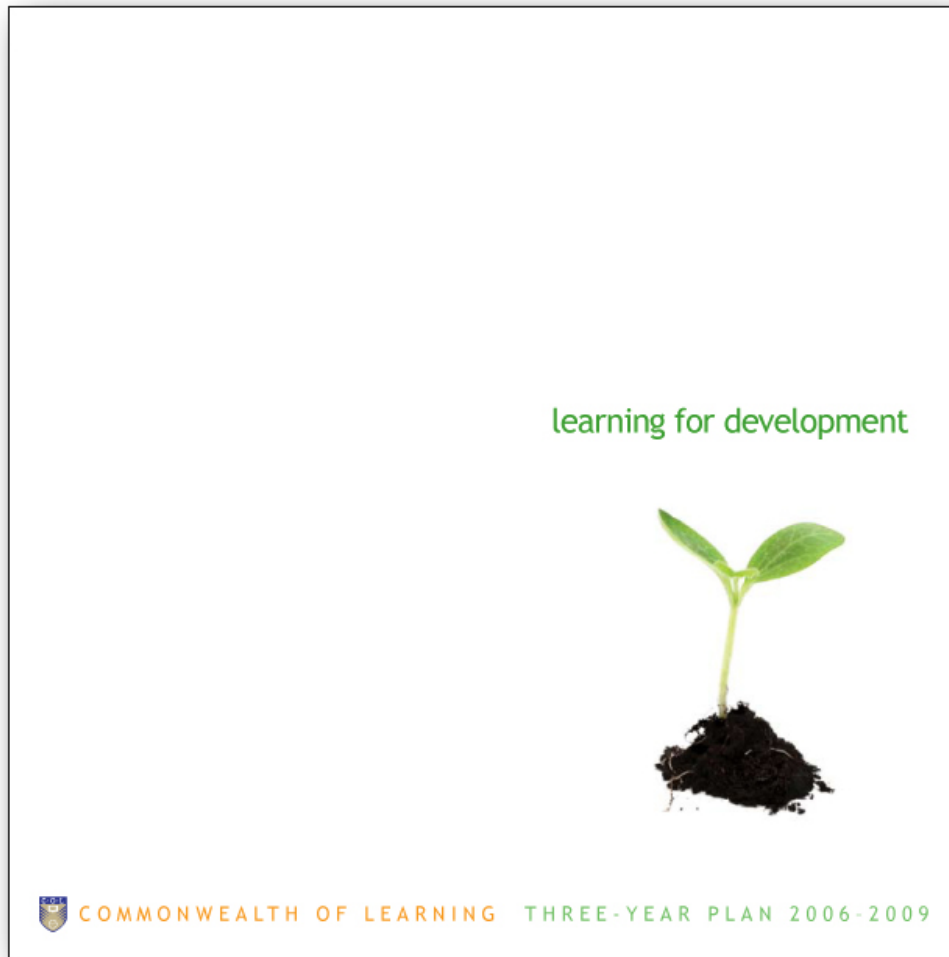


**FOR THE GOOD OF ALL**

# COL IN THE COMMONWEALTH: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE



# The Commonwealth of Learning



## Three-year Plan 2006-09

# The Commonwealth of Learning

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Professor Asha Kanwar



# The Commonwealth of Learning

COL IN THE COMMONWEALTH

2003-06

COUNTRY REPORTS  
(49 countries)



# The Commonwealth of Learning

## COUNTRY ACTION PROPOSALS



## COUNTRY ACTION PLANS

2006-09

(at this conference)



# The Commonwealth of Learning

## WHAT IS IT?

- Intergovernmental
- CHOGM 1987 - Vancouver
- Voluntary \$\$\$ Commonwealth countries





# The Commonwealth of Learning

## WHO IS IT?

- Commonwealth-wide Board
- 40 staff in Vancouver and New Delhi
- Networks across Commonwealth
- Country focal points



# The Commonwealth of Learning

## PURPOSE

To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use various technologies to improve and expand education, training and learning in support of development



# The Commonwealth of Learning

## WHY DISTANCE LEARNING?

- Economies of scale
- Geographical reach
- Flexible and cost-effective





# Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

# The Commonwealth of Learning

## FUNDING?

Major donors (Board Members *ex officio*)

Canada

India

New Zealand

Nigeria

South Africa

United Kingdom



# The Commonwealth of Learning

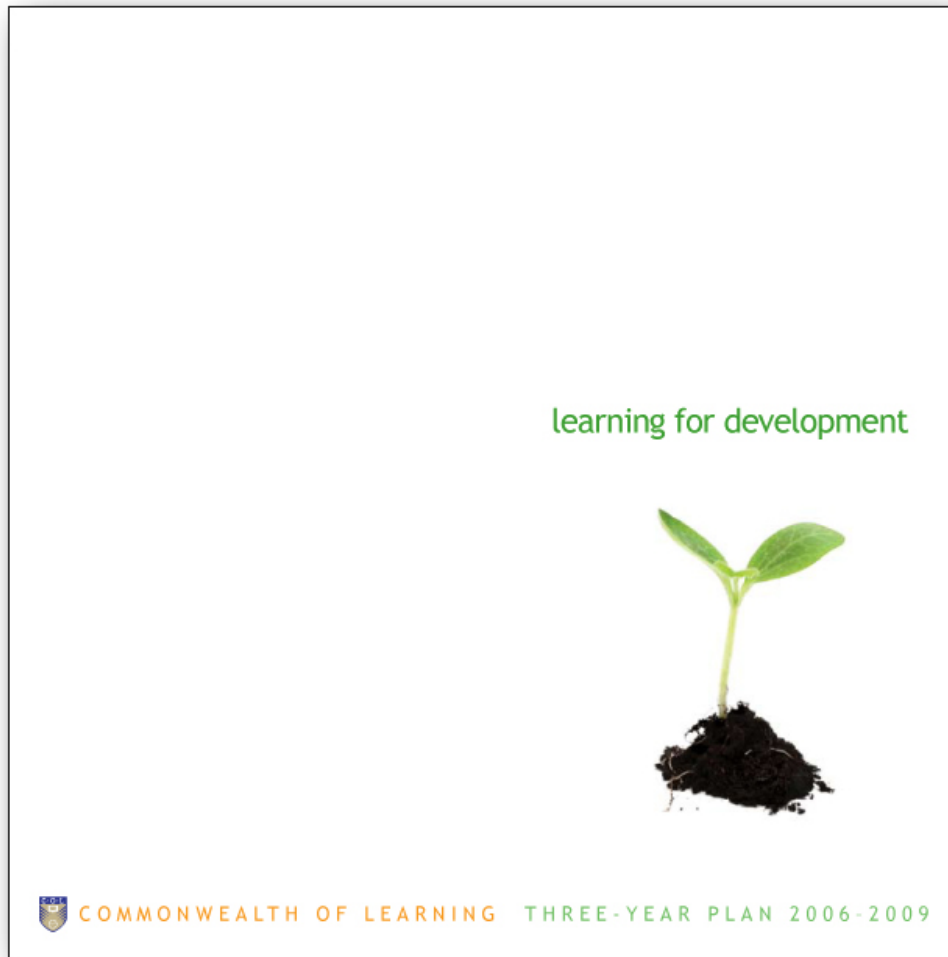
**FUNDING?**

Contributions in 2003-06 from  
27 other Commonwealth  
Governments

**THANK YOU!**



# The Commonwealth of Learning



## Three-year Plan 2006-09

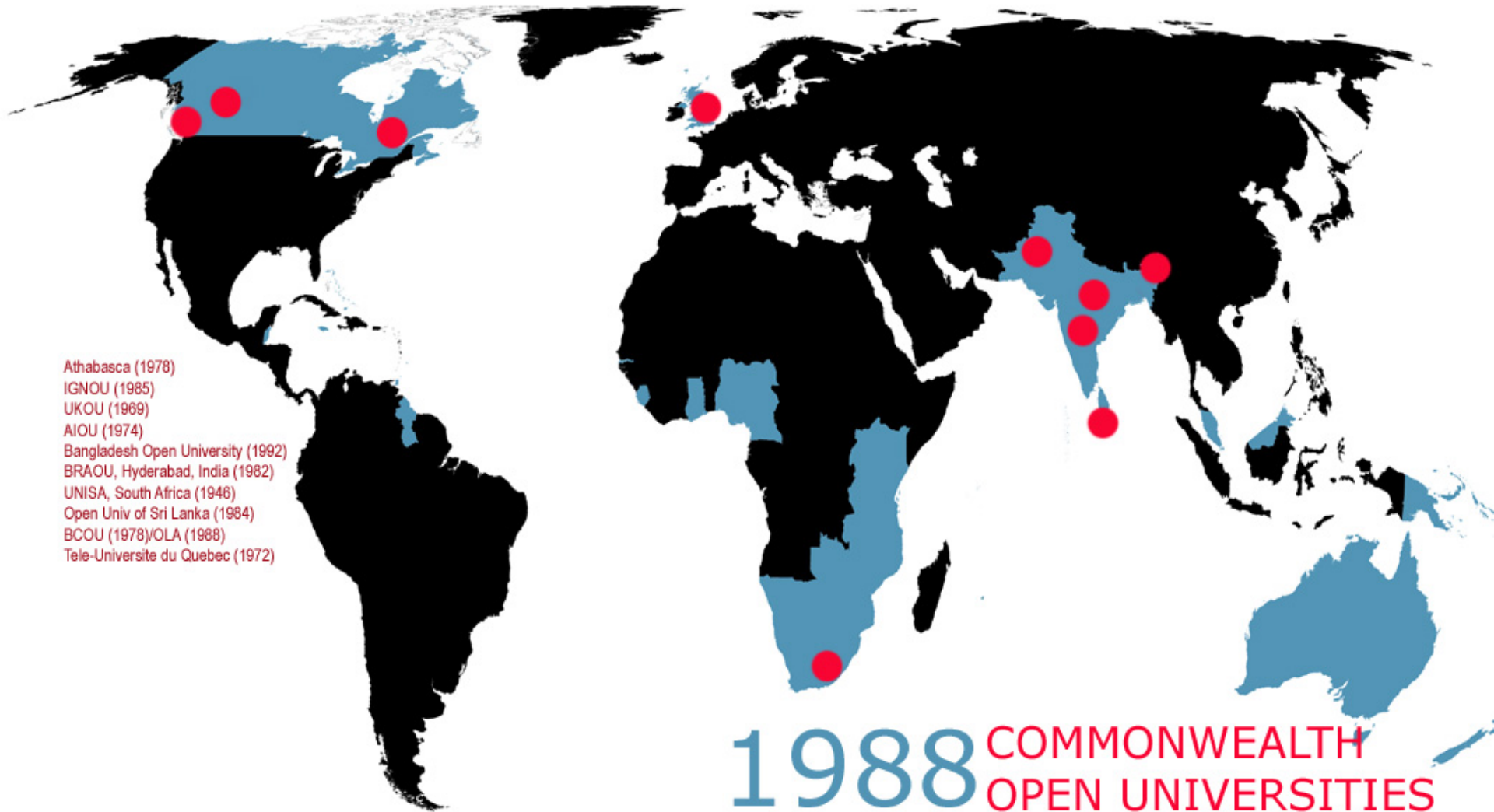
# The Commonwealth of Learning

## LOOKING BACK

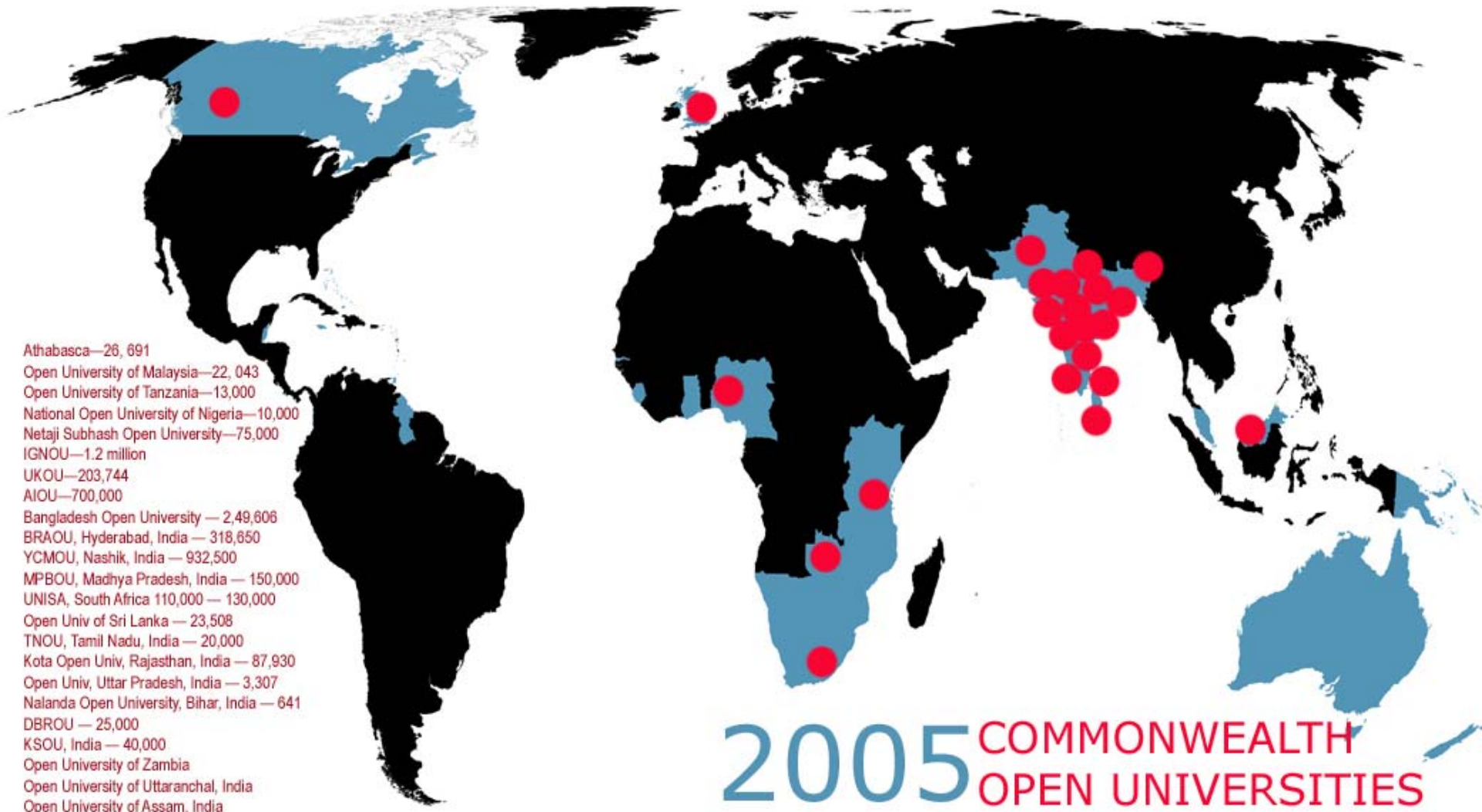




# The growth of Open Universities



# The growth of Open Universities



2005 COMMONWEALTH  
OPEN UNIVERSITIES

# The Commonwealth of Learning

## LOOKING FORWARD

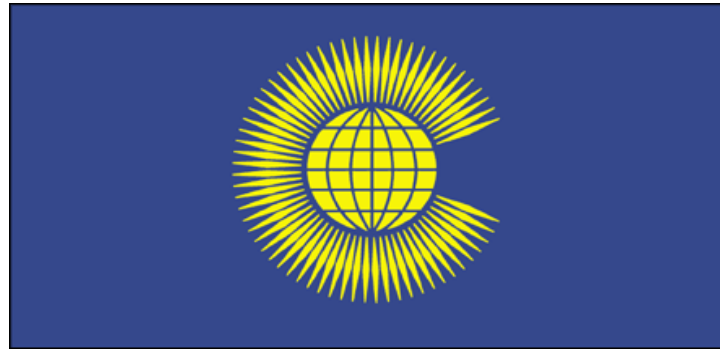


# The Commonwealth of Learning

- a young world
- a diverse developing world
- spreading technology
- an unfinished agenda



# The Commonwealth of Learning



## FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMONWEALTH



- Sustainable livelihoods  
= *key development challenge*
- HIV/AIDS  
= *development disaster*
- Education/training of women  
= *governments' priority*
- Digital divide  
= *concern at CHOGM*



# The Commonwealth of Learning

## EVALUATION

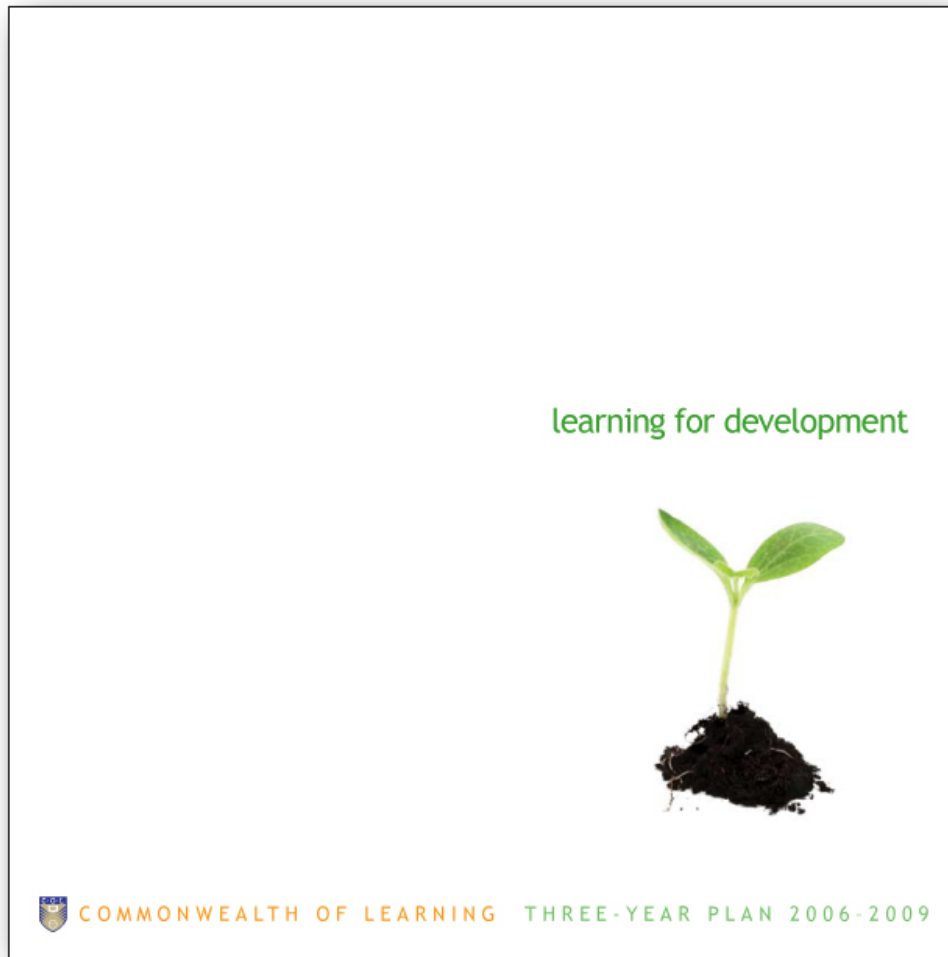


- Fewer programmes for longer
- Link to government priorities
- Programme focus: not projects
- Autonomy + teamwork
- Partnerships





# The Commonwealth of Learning



# Three-year Plan 2006-09



# UN Millennium Development Goals

**Keep the promise**  
Millennium Development Goals



## Education for All (The Dakar Goals)



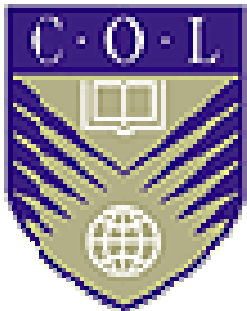
**Peace**  
**Democracy**  
**Equality**  
**Good governance**

# EDUCATION

learning for development



## LEARNING FOR LIVELIHOODS



## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

**EDUCATION**

**LEARNING FOR  
LIVELIHOODS**

**HUMAN  
ENVIRONMENT**

Policy

Systems

Models

Materials



Quality Assurance

Teacher Development

Open/Alternative Schooling

Higher Education

eLearning for Education  
Sector Development

**EDUCATION**

Learning and Skills for  
Livelihoods

Rural and Peri-Urban  
Community Development

National/International  
Community Development

Virtual University for Small States  
of the Commonwealth

Transnational Programmes

**LEARNING FOR LIVELIHOODS**



# Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



# FUNDING

- ❑ William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
\$US 350,000
  
- ❑ Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation  
£1 million (4 years)





# Key events in VUSSC progress

- Singapore:  
Planning meeting - September 2005  
Planning meeting - April 2006
- Canada (Vancouver):  
Organisation meeting- July 2006
- Mauritius:  
Course development 'Boot Camp' - Aug. 2006
- Jamaica:  
Planning meeting - November 2006



# Singapore Statement (Courses)

- Teacher Education,
- Information and Communications Technology,
- Information Systems,
- Tourism and Hospitality,
- Nursing and Health Care,
- TechVoc Edn & Trg and Life Skills,
- Management & Public Administration,
- Agriculture and Fisheries.



# Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006

- Orientation: concept of online collaboration and project planning
- Introduction to technologies, free open source software, Wikis, ePortfolios, etc.
- Production of course frameworks and creation of initial content
- Rapid learning of technology skills to enable participants to provide buddy-training



# Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006







# Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006





# Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006





# COL's role in the VUSSC

- Coordinate the initiative
- Facilitate creation of networks
- Share expertise in educational technology: radio, TV, print, multi-media, internet, wikis, eLearning
- Support local capacity enhancement
- Share resources



## But COL is not...

- A degree-awarding body
- A funding body





# The role of Ministries

- Develop policy**
- Liaise with other ministries**
- Allocate people and responsibilities**
- Support implementation**
- Monitor implementation**



# The role of Institutions

- Take responsibility for program development and delivery**
- Adapt course materials to local contexts**
- Grant awards earned by students**



# Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Learning and Skills for  
Livelihoods

Rural and Peri-Urban  
Community Development

National/International  
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Virtual University for Small States  
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Transnational Programmes

**LEARNING FOR LIVELIHOODS**



Gender and Development

Health, Welfare and  
Community Development

Environmental Education

Good Governance

Educational use of Mass  
Media and ICTs

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

# The Commonwealth of Learning

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Focal points in countries
- Country Reports (2003-06)
- Country Action Plans (2006-09)



# The Commonwealth of Learning

## FOCAL POINTS

- Feedback to COL
- Align with national priorities
- Coordinate between Ministries
- Information exchange



# The Commonwealth of Learning

COL IN THE COMMONWEALTH

2003-06

COUNTRY REPORTS  
(49 countries)





# The Commonwealth of Learning

## COUNTRY ACTION PROPOSALS



## COUNTRY ACTION PLANS

2006-09

(at this conference)



# The Commonwealth of Learning

## WHAT YOU GET FROM COL:

- COL works for you
- Expertise in learning + technology
- South-south collaboration
- Development without donors
- Successful and transferable models



# The Commonwealth of Learning

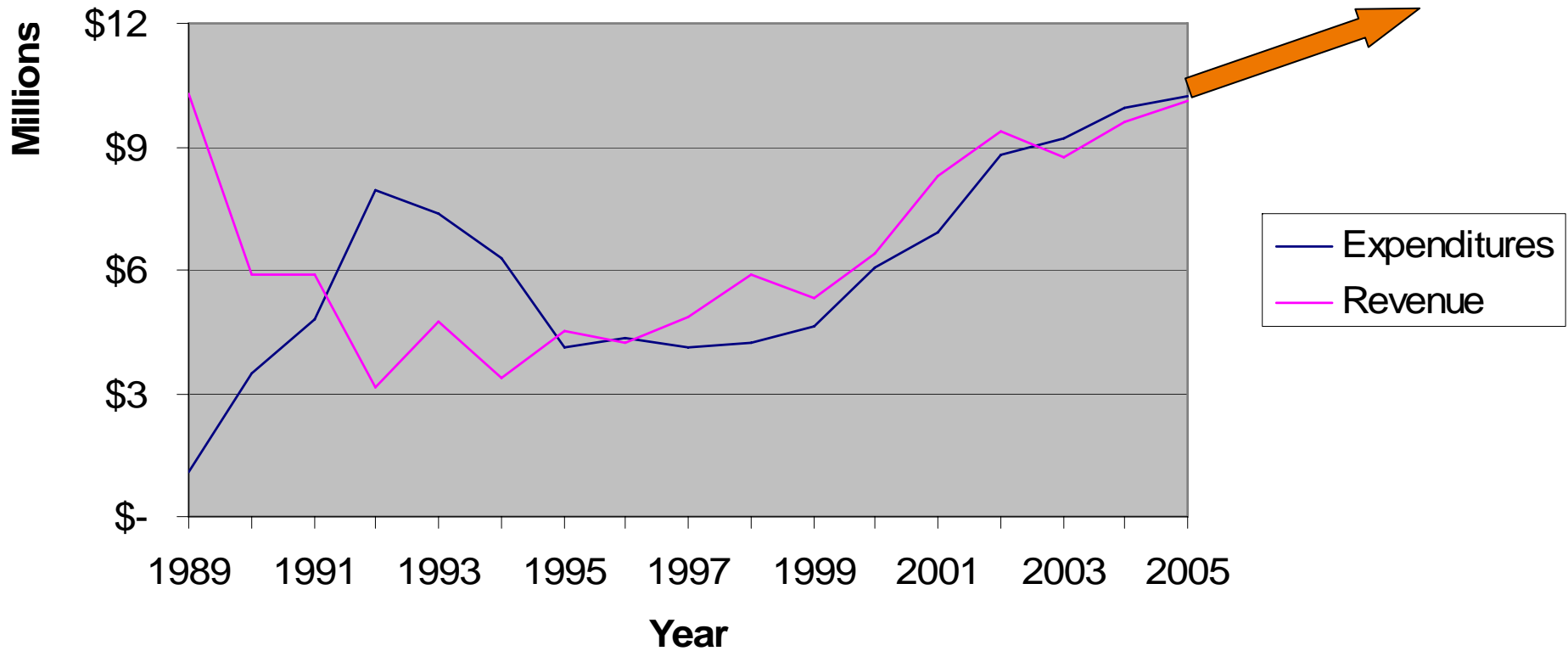
## WHAT COL ASKS OF YOU:

- Dialogue about your priorities
- Finalise your Country Action Plan
- Get involved (e.g. in VUSSC)



# BUDGET TRENDS

## Revenue vs. Expenditures



**\$Can 12 million**

# The Commonwealth of Learning

## THE BOARD RECOMMENDS:

- Endorse the 3-year Plan
- Note progress on VUSSC
- Agree target of \$Can 12 million





THANK YOU