Adding Global Value

24 November 2015, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Professor Asha Kanwar
President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning
Dr. Linda Sissons, CNZM
Chair, COL Board of Governors
The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was established as an intergovernmental organisation by the Commonwealth Heads of Government.
What is it for?

To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for development.
Learning for Sustainable Development

- Economic Growth
- Social Inclusion
- Environmental Conservation
GOAL 4

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

More at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsprop
Two Sectors

Education

Skills

Gender
Leveraging New & Existing Technologies
Adding Global Value
1. The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
Connecting the Commonwealth
10 institutions in 8 countries

- National University of Samoa
- University of the West Indies (Open Campus)
- Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning
- Barbados Community College
- University of Seychelles
- Seychelles Tourism Academy
- Villa College Maldives
- Open University of Mauritius
- Mauritius Institute of Training
- Antigua State College
Development of a Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF)

- Recognition of small states qualifications
- Improve credit transfer and
- Promote learners’ mobility
Enabling education across borders

The VUSSC Diploma has given me the opportunity to follow a full diploma programme in Agriculture at the National University of Samoa. I am proud to have a qualification and a job plus I can now undertake a full degree programme in Agriculture at the University of the South Pacific.”

Leafaitulagi Vaaelua, Teacher 
Avele College, Samoa;
Paris Declaration on OER

- Encourage the open licensing of educational materials produced with public funds.
- Encourage the development and adaptation of OER in a variety of languages and cultural contexts.

Photo: CC-BY Davide Storti

The 2012 Paris OER Declaration drafting group at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France
**Open Educational Resources (OER)**

“openly licensed educational materials have tremendous potential to contribute to improving the quality and effectiveness of education.”

*A Basic Guide to Open Educational Resources, UNESCO, COL*
OER Policies in the Commonwealth

South Africa: *Draft Policy Framework for the Provision of Distance Education in South African Universities*
(Page 28, MHET will establish a Task Team that will play an awareness-raising and advocacy role around the use of OER)

Mauritius: *Education and Human Resources Strategy Plan 2008-2020*
(page 119, 1.3 promote e-learning and Open Educational Resources)

India: *Open Licensing Policy Guidelines for NMEICT, 2014*
COL Resources
3. Technology-Enabled Learning

Building knowledge and skills in the use of ICT in the classroom
Integrating ICTs in the classroom

“Lessons learned from completing CCTI empowered me to differentiate between ICT use and ICT integration in the classroom, and help learners manage ICT tools to build knowledge.”

Jacqueline Y. Peters-Richardson
Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Antigua & Barbuda
CCTI graduate
Since the security situation in my country has deteriorated in March 2011, it has become difficult for me to register and attend courses. eLearning was the solution for easing this problem and keeping the door open for me to gain new experience and knowledge. Although I faced difficulties with regard to electricity and Internet connection that did not hinder my efforts in achieving my goals...COL courses have enhanced my writing skills”

Ms. Dania Al Yamani, Senior Refugee Status Determination Case Worker; COL eLIO learner and recipient of Award for Excellence for an eLearning Experience in Difficult Circumstances
4. Increasing food security

Every $1 invested in learning, facilitation and networking resulted in $9 worth of income and assets.
L3F in Tanzania

3,300 women learnt through mobile phones, radio and TV and started agri-enterprises during 2014-15 in Tanzania
Rejuvenating indigenous communities

Through the mobile learning and self-help group activities of COL’s Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) initiative, Uganda’s Batwa community is strengthening their honey and beekeeping enterprise sustainably.
LIVES: A model for post-conflict recovery

As an asynchronous education tool, LIVES is highly effective and less costly for mass education, particularly for those who are challenged by illiteracy and those populations isolated by geography or cultural relations, such as young mothers (girls in early marriages), and women in a male dominated society

Qayumi et al. in Effectiveness of Parent Education through Mobile Technology in Afghanistan, *Creative Education, 5*, 1921-1928.

Photo credit: PACAFG.org
5. MOOC4D

MOOCs when combined with Open and Distance Learning methods present unprecedented opportunities in sustainable development. COL emphasizes MOOC platforms that provide a good learning experience at low bandwidth and offline where necessary. The mooc4IT platform used here meets those considerations.

Recent Courses

- Mooc On Moocs
- Mobiles For Development
- ICT Basics
MOOCs for Malis (gardeners)

Niharika Verma, in her final year of a B. Sc. in Horticulture, used her mobile phone to learn about 22 crops. She is using these materials to prepare for higher studies.

Niharika Verma, final year student of B. Sc Horticulture, CSAUA&T, Kanpur; MobiMOOC learner
Using ICTs to enrich teaching & learning—beyond the Commonwealth

- Collaboration with AVU – 2015
- 1,692 registered

Kenya, South Africa, India, United States, Nigeria, Uganda, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Pakistan, Tanzania
“COL has had a **major impact** on individuals...institutions...organisations...is highly **respected** and well regarded, **flexible** and **nimble** organisation which leverages **partnerships**...to achieve outcomes’.

Stephen Murgatroyd with Janet Tully, 2015
COL: Adding Global Value by

- Promoting ‘learning for sustainable development’
- Supporting innovations for affordable and accessible technologies
- Serving the last person in the queue
Thank You

www.col.org