6th Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning

Venue: Hotel LeMeridien, Kochi, India
24th - 28th November, 2010
FIRST DAY IN FRAMES

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: IGNOU Vice Chancellor Prof VN Rajasekharan Pillai with a foreign delegate; two foreign delegates Ramanujam and other delegates at the cultural evening; Kathakali dance recital and other performances and delegates in a relaxing mood at the convention centre on the opening day of PCF6.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: IGNOU Vice Chancellor Prof VN Rajasekharan Pillai with a foreign delegate; two foreign delegates in a conversation; delegates going through conference literature; Pro-VC Prof PR Ramanujam and other delegates at the cultural evening; Kathakali dance recital and other performances and delegates in a relaxing mood at the convention centre on the opening day of PCF6.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali  
Topic: Community Development

Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali, an economist and exponent of higher education, is the second Vice-Chancellor and President of the Open University, Malaysia. His vast experience in the field of higher education spans more than 30 years with a humble beginning as a tutor in the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Kebangsaan, Malaysia.

Hon’ble Steve Maharey  
Topic: Formal Education

Maharey is the Vice Chancellor of Massey University, New Zealand. He was the fourth-ranked Minister in Government for nine years, holding the positions of Minister of Education; Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority; Minister of Research, Science and Technology; Minister Responsible for Crown Research Institutes, among others.

Dr. Caroline Seelig  
Topic: Skills Development

Dr Caroline Seelig is the Chief Executive of the New Zealand based Open Polytechnic, a specialist provider of vocationally orientated open and distance learning. She has extensive knowledge of the technical vocational education and training sector, and has led or been involved in successful collaborative initiatives within New Zealand that have helped drive change and innovation in the tertiary education sector.

Prof Asha Kanwar  
Vice President, COL

Professor Asha Singh Kanwar became Vice President of the Commonwealth of Learning on 1 April 2006 and assumed additional responsibility as Programme Director in April 2007. She is specifically responsible for stakeholder engagement and programme direction.

Ms. Chetna Gala Sinha  
Topic: Social Justice

An economist, farmer, and activist, Chetna Sinha works for social change in some of the poorest and most drought-stricken areas of rural India. She is the founder and the current president of the Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Ltd. (the Bank), a micro-enterprise development bank, that has five branches and over 127,000 clients.

Sir John Daniel  
President and CEO, COL

Sir Daniel became COL President in 2004 after gaining wide international experience in universities and the United Nations system. He obtained his full-time university education in Metallurgy at Oxford and Paris and later demonstrated his commitment to lifelong learning to complete a part-time Master’s degree in Educational Technology at Concordia University.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor  
Former MoS for External Affairs

Author, peace-keeper, refugee worker, human rights activist, a former Minister of State for External Affairs and now Member of the Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram, Tharoor’s career began in 1978 and included key responsibilities in peace-keeping after the Cold War and as a senior adviser to the Secretary-General, as well as the UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.

Ms Sherrill Whittington  

Master of Letters in Asian History, University of New England, Master of Arts in International Relations, Australian National University, Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Education in Education Newcastle University. She is currently undertaking a Masters in Professional Education and Training (MPET) by distance through Deakin University.
**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

- **PROFESSOR FRANK BANKS,** Director for International Development in Teacher Education, UK Open University
- **MR. MARTIN BEAN,** President and Vice-Chancellor, U.K. Open University (via video)
- **Dr. PAULINE GREAVES,** Head of Education, Commonwealth Secretariat
- **Dr. Sitansu S. JENA,** Chairman, the National Institute of Open Schooling, India
- **DR. (MRS.) NAFISATU D. MUHAMMAD,** Executive Secretary, National Commission for Nomadic Education, Nigeria
- **DR. HINA PATEL,** Strategic Research Manager, The Meraka Institute (African Advanced Institute for Information and Communication Technology), South Africa
- **DR. REKHA SHARMA SEN,** School of Continuing Education, IGNOU
- **MS. STAMENKA Uvalić-Trumbić,** Chief, Section for Reform, Innovation and Quality Assurance, Division of Higher Education, UNESCO
- **MS. SHERRILL WHITTINGTON,** Director, GradSchool Board, University of Newcastle, and international Gender, Governance and Peacebuilding consultant

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### PCF6: THEMES

#### Social Justice

**SOCIAL JUSTICE** covers four major sub-themes as follows:

- Access to Justice: Life, Liberty & Livelihood
- Scaling up Quality Education for All
- Education & Employment of Persons with Disabilities
- Assistive and Affordable Technologies

#### Community Development

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** covers three major sub-themes as follows:

- Community based Learning and Outreach
- Open Education Resources: Models to Choose, Adopt and Adapt
- Innovative Pathways to Knowledge Society

#### Skills Development

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT** covers three major sub-themes as follows:

- Skills Development for National Development
- Global Development Discourses; North-South Dialogues
- Regional Cooperation: Who can benefit from whom?

#### Formal Education

**FORMAL EDUCATION** covers three major sub-themes as follows:

- Revamping Teacher Education
- Open Schooling
- Technologies for Scaling up ODL programmes
- Quality Issues
Heritage, history and a huge slice of God's Own Country are Kochi's brand images. Located between the Arabian Sea and the Backwaters, Kochi is Kerala's genuine melting pot.

The city's physical geography encompassing islands, lakes, lagoons, canals, estuaries, the sea and the mainland, makes for a seamless fusion between land and water.

Acclaimed as the finest natural harbour in the world, Kochi — earlier known as Cochin — is a bustling port and a fascinating city. Built along a saltwater lagoon, the view of the vast stretch of the blue waters along with the Chinese nets is a sight worth beholding.

Once a predominantly fishing village, Kochi has today become an important trade centre for the country. It is the financial capital of the state of Kerala and, with a population of more than two million, the biggest urban agglomeration in the state.

One can travel to Kochi and enjoy a splendid stay among the emerald backwaters, especially between September and May when the pouring rain has flooded the river — thus making it a very romantic experience.

**Tourist Places**
Kochi is full of heritage as well as cultural centres. Tourists can enjoy the beaches and indulge in water sports. Kerala tourism promotes exclusive tours for Kochi that is dotted with various monumental attractions that reveal the Dutch and British influences on Kerala.

**Religious Places**
Christianity is pretty much dominant in Kochi and the presence of numerous churches is an evidence of this fact. The Santa Cruz Basilica, which dates back to 1558, has beautiful paintings on its ceiling. Another famous church is that of St. Francis, which is also India's oldest. The tomb of Vasco da Gama attracts popular interest as well.

**Forts And Palaces**
The first and foremost name that comes to mind when talking about the forts of Kochi is inevitably Fort Kochi, a timeless legacy of European presence. The Dutch Palace at Mattancherry is an exquisite palace where wall murals have been done using the tempera process of painting.
Festivals

The festival of Ernakulathappan, the deity of the temple of Shiva, is an annual festival, which lasts for eight days. The Seveli procession with nine tuskers and Panchavadyam is the highpoint of the festival. The Valanambalam Devi Temple located in the heart of Ernakulam celebrates an annual festival known as Thalapoli Utsavam for two days.

Other Attractions

The Hill Palace museum, 10 kms from Kochi, is definitely worth a visit. The palace complex consists of 49 buildings built in the traditional architectural style of Kerala and is surrounded by 52 acres of terraced land. Besides this, the Chinese fishing nets (that can be seen on the harbour), the man-made island of Willingdon and the Jewish synagogue are other popular attractions in Kochi.

Excursions

Tourists can make excursions to various other places as well. One can travel to the Alappuzha beach (70 kms) and spend a night on a houseboat. The Periyar wildlife sanctuary (190 kms is home to a variety of animals, while the backwater destination of Kumarakom (88 kms) is the favourite haunt of migratory birds. Once in Kumarakom, tourists can also enjoy a homestay at the Kodianthara Heritage House, which specialises in Backwater Rides and traditional Syrian Catholic cooking. For details, visit www.kodianthara.com.

Getting There

Kochi has an international airport where regular flights ply between important destinations. It has three main railway stations namely, Ernakulam Junction, Ernakulam Town and Harbour Terminus on Willingdon Island. An extensive network of highways and local roads link Kochi to the rest of the country. Moreover, NH 47 from Kanyakumari to Salem passes right through the city, while NH 17 to Mumbai and NH 49 to Madurai (in Tamil Nadu) starts from Kochi itself.

KOCHI HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>Malayalam, Hindi, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known As</td>
<td>Cochin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Season</td>
<td>September To May</td>
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</tbody>
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PCF6 Programme

NOVEMBER 25, 2010

09:30-10:30 AM: Forum Opening Session (Oman Hall)
10:30-11:00 AM: Tea Break
11:00-12:30 PM: SJ1-PS1 (Oman Hall) CD1-PS1 (Manappuram 1) SD1-PS1 (Manappuram 2) FE1-PS1 (Manappuram 3)
12:30-14:00 PM: Lunch (Space Frame)
13:30-14:00: ODL Achievers (Travancore)
14:00 -15:30 PM
SJ2-PS1 (Oman Hall) SJ2-PS2 (Nayanar) SJ2-PS3 (Cheraman)
CD2-PS1 (Manappuram 1), SD2-PS1 (Manappuram 2) FE2-PS1 (Manappuram 3)
FE2-PS2 (Manappuram 4) FE2-PS3 (Raja Ravi Verma) FE2-PS4 (Travancore)
15:30-16:00 PM: Tea Break
16:00-17:30 PM: Theme Keynote, Formal Education & EDEA (Oman Hall)
18:00 PM ONWARDS
17:30-18:15: COL Book Launch (Optional)

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

*SJ: Social Justice  CD: Community Development  SD: Skill Development  FE: Formal Education  PS: Parallel Session
** The Schedule is confirmed at the time of going to press

The Organising Committee

Honorary Chair: Professor M.S. Swaminathan
Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has been described by the United Nations Environment Programme as the father of Economic Ecology and by Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations, as ‘a living legend who will go into the annals of history as a world scientist of rare distinction’. He has served as Chairman of the UN Science Advisory Committee.

Co-Chair: Sir John Daniel, President & CEO, COL
Sir John Daniel became President of COL in 2004 after gaining wide international experience in universities and the United Nations system. He obtained his full-time university education in Metallurgy at Oxford and Paris and later demonstrated his commitment to lifelong learning by taking 25 years to complete a part-time Master’s degree in Educational Technology at Concordia University.

Co-Chair: Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor IGNOU
Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai is the Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU, New Delhi. He is also the Chairman of the Distance Education Council (DEC), which looks after the co-ordination of standards, quality, recognition and developmental assistance to all the 13 State Open Universities.

Programme Chair: Prof. P.R. Ramanujam, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU
Professor P.R. Ramanujam is the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. Prof Ramanujam was appointed as Director, STRIDE for the period of August 2000-August 2005 and again for a second term in 2008.
(For detailed profiles, visit www.pcf6.net)