Asia

2012–2015 Country Reports
The Asian region of the Commonwealth is made up of eight countries: three in Southeast Asia and five in South Asia. Three — Bangladesh, India and Pakistan — are among the most highly populated countries in the world. Open and distance learning (ODL) has proliferated in Asia in recent years. Several of COL’s most important partners are located in the region, promoting south-south collaboration and harnessing the potential of information and communication technology (ICT) to expand learning for development. The eight member countries are Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

**CONTEXT**

The COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Asia) was held in Malaysia from 17 to 19 September 2014, co-hosted by the Ministry of Education Malaysia in cooperation with the Universiti Sains Malaysia. The theme of the meeting was to explore education and the use of technology and distance learning methods in development. The objectives of the meeting were to: 1) determine the key priorities and needs for education and training in Asia; and 2) identify COL’s role in addressing these key needs in the region.

**REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

- Adopt a transnational approach to quality assurance in education across the region
- Improve recognition of degrees and credit transfer between different institutions
- Promote and improve quality and relevance of open schooling system for secondary level
- Support transitions to dual-mode education (face-to-face and ODL)
- Strengthen teacher education, including in-service training, through ODL

**REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) model scaled up and replicated
- Healthy Communities model expanded through development of new Community Learning Programmes (CLPs)
- Support provided for open schooling
- COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RiM) implemented in various institutions
- New massive online open courses (MOOCs) developed and launched
- Continuous Improvement Toolkit for Community Radio (CR-CIT) developed and made available

**QUICK NOTES**

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**REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

**REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

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- Continuous Improvement Toolkit for Community Radio (CR-CIT) developed and made available

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Board:**

- Shri Satyanarayan Mohanty (India)
- Professor Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chair - Audit Committee (Pakistan)

**Honorary Advisors:**

- Professor Dato’ Dr Ansary Ahmed (Malaysia)
- Professor Dr Abdul Mannan (Bangladesh)

**Areas of COL’s Work in the Region:**

- Open Schooling
- Higher Education
- Teacher Education
- Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Healthy Communities
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F)
- eLearning
- Regional Centre (CEMCA)
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) (Regional Centre)
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Commonwealth Open Schooling Association (COMOSA)
- Regional Institute of Education (RIE)
- Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU)
- UNESCO
- World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) South Asia

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- 11 new VUSSC courses including VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education
- Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate Materials Development
- Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) for Community Radio

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F)
- Healthy Communities
- Open Schooling
- COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)
At the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, the following priorities were identified:

► Skilling, entrepreneurship and training teachers for TVET
► Quality in education
► ICT and ODL for increased access

► Policy development and/or review
► 21st-century skills/critical thinking skills in education
## Bangladesh

### Context

Bangladesh has a largely rural population of about 157 million. COL has worked with Bangladesh on numerous projects aimed at advancing open and distance learning (ODL) in the country. Bangladesh is a regular contributor to COL’s budget and participates in regional activities, many led by COL’s regional agency, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA).

### Agreed Priorities

- Develop teachers’ capacity to create subject-based content and use multimedia classrooms
- Bring general education under the Open and Distance Education (ODE) umbrella
- Develop content under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model
- Develop awareness campaign of ICT in education
- Centralise multimedia content development and online broadcasting

### Outcomes Achieved by COL

- Print and animation video learning materials developed in five skills training subjects in partnership with Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), with courses offered through DAM’s nearly 900 Community Learning Centres, and made available to 200+ NGOs in Bangladesh
- Community Radio Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) made available
- Seven Community Learning Programmes (CLPs) operationalised and 75+ hours of content designed, with a total listenership of about 25,000 people
- Support provided for open schooling through Bangladesh Open School, including the development of a Girls’ Innovation project

### Quick Notes

**COL Focal Point:**
- Mr Md. Nazrul Islam Khan, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

**Notable Mention:**
- Professor Dr Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor, European University of Bangladesh, is a COL Honorary Advisor

**Areas of COL’s Work in Bangladesh:**
- Open Schooling
- Higher Education
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning

### COL’s Work Related to MDG Targets

#### National MDG Targets Addressed by COL

- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Eliminate gender disparity to all levels of education no later than 2015
- Reduce child mortality and improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

#### COL’s Work on Bangladesh’s MDG Targets

- Open schooling programmes are focusing on girls’ leadership and improved access to education for girls
- CLPs on child and maternal health and disease prevention are encouraging positive behaviours
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing of open educational resources and promoting ODL to address development needs are underway
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
- Bangladesh Open University (BOU)
- Dhaka Ahsania Mission
- Bureau for Non-Formal Education
- Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)
- Centre for International Education and Development (CINED)
- Bangladesh Open School
- Rupantar
- University of Dhaka
- Sialdah University of Science and Technology
- UNESCO Dhaka
- Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio and Communication
- University of Bangladesh

**CAPACITY**

Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Support to Attend Conference on ICT Culture in Education
- Community Radio Trainers Workshop
- Support to Attend “Radio for Equitable Education to All” Seminar
- Gender Mainstreaming in Open Schools
- Women’s Leadership Development
- eFacilitation and Instructional Design
- Locally Generated Materials Development
- Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand
- Community Learning Programme Workshop for Women Broadcasters
- Quality Assurance for Open Schools
- Planning and Theory of Change for Open Schools
- Girls Leadership
- ICT Leadership

**MATERIALS**

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes
- Print and Video Learning Materials for Skills Training
- Community Radio Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT)
- Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

**MODELS**

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Girls’ Innovation Project
- COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers model
- Healthy Communities model

**POLICIES**

A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- Regional Consultation on Quality Guidelines for OER
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Bangladesh was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Bangladesh. The following areas were identified:

► Provision of support for the National ICT Project, particularly in challenging areas such as:

► rewarding “smart teachers” who are making the most use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in transforming their teaching sessions
► establishing a monitoring system for effective implementation of the ICT Project
► supporting government ownership of such developmental initiatives through budgetary and policy support
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Bangladesh

PARTNERSHIPS

COMOSA (Commonwealth Open Schools Association)
Twenty-two partners signed the COMOSA constitution including BOU.

TVET Partnerships in Bangladesh
In February 2013, COL visited various stakeholders to discuss their use of learning materials for the training of people working in the informal sector. Visits included Dhaka Ahsania Mission Mirpur District Training Centre, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Community Learning Centres, and the Bureau for Non-Formal Education. COL also visited Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) to discuss the delivery of the new skills training materials through the NGO network. COL met with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Chief Technical Advisor for the TVET Reform Programme to discuss possible collaboration on capacity-building for materials development for the formal TVET system.

COL has an ongoing partnership with the Dhaka Ahsania Mission to develop non-formal skills training materials.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)
COL sponsored nine people from Bangladesh to attend the forum: Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain of Bangladesh Open University (BOU), Mostafa Azad Kamal of BOU, A.K.M Iftekhar Khalid of BOU, Shahnewaz Khan of the Centre for International Education and Development (CINED), Dr M.A. Mannan of BOU, Md. Mizanoor Rahman of BOU, Saifuddin Sabuj of Rupantar, Md. Sharifah Shahabuddin of BOU and Sadia Afroze Sultana, also of BOU.

Regional Focal Points Meeting
Mr Md. Nazrul Islam Khan represented Bangladesh at the meeting.

Regional Symposium on Open Education
Dr Sadia Afroze Sultana, Dean of BOU, attended the meeting.

Healthy Communities Partners Meeting
COL convened a meeting of its Healthy Communities initiative partners in Abuja in December 2013, on the sidelines of the 7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning. The meeting focused on conducting a mid-term review of the initiative and planning for the balance of the three-year plan. Mr Saifuddin Sabuj of Rupantar, Bangladesh, participated in the meeting.

AMARC and UNESCO Community Radio Workshops/ Seminars
AMARC South Asia and the UNESCO Chair on Community Media held two back-to-back events in Delhi, India. A seminar held from 17 to 18 January 2013 on “Voices for Change and Peace: Seminar for Taking Stock of Community Radio in South Asia,” was followed by a four-day training workshop for women community radio broadcasters of South Asia, titled “Enhancing Access To Community Media, Promoting Positive Social Change and Peace Building Through Community Broadcasting.” Attending the two events were invited experts and participants from South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan) and Supriya Sahu, Joint Secretary (Broadcasting), Government of India. COL, with the assistance of CEMCA, supported some of the sessions and sponsored participants to attend, including 5 women broadcasters from Bangladesh.

CAPACITY

Support to Attend the International Conference on ICT Culture in Education
COL, through its regional centre CEMCA, supported the Educational Technology and Management Academy (ETMA) Council to host the International Conference on ICT Culture in Education held in Delhi, India, from 27 to 29 September 2012. Mr Md. Mizanoor Rahman and Ms Sabina Yeasmin of Bangladesh Open University participated in the conference.

Community Radio Trainers Workshop
A capacity-building workshop, led by Mr Charles Simbi, was held in Khulna in October 2012 for 14 community radio trainers from Bangladesh.

Support to Attend “Radio for Equitable Education to All” Seminar
COL supported four experts from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to attend a seminar titled “Radio for Equitable Education to All,” hosted by the Distance Education Programme — Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA) of India Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi from 27 to 29 December 2012. Professor Mahfuz Ashraf participated in the seminar.

Gender Mainstreaming for Open Schools
To ensure that Open Schools mainstream Gender in their activities, COL organised a COMOSA workshop from March 13 to 17, 2013 in Delhi to discuss the Gender Equality Guidelines developed by a COL Consultant. Attending the workshop were 19 representatives from Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Canada, India, Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and United Kingdom.
Women’s Leadership Development Workshop

COL, in collaboration with the Open University of Sri Lanka, organised a regional workshop from 18–20 March 2013 on leadership development for 24 senior women academics in South Asia. Facilitators of the workshop were Professor Uma Coomaraswamy and Professor Madhulika Kaushik. Dr Mahbuba Nasreen, Professor Sociology, In-Charge Disaster Management Unit, and Dr Khair J. Sogra, Professor and Chairperson, MBA programme of the University of Dhaka, and Dr Yasmeen Haque, Head of Physics of Sialdah University of Science and Technology, participated in the workshop.

eFacilitation and Instructional Design

In its efforts to build the capacity of its national and regional partners to offer distance training and mentoring, COL has supported training in efacilitation and instructional design through distance courses, of 5 and 10 weeks, respectively. Following training, efacilitators and course designers are engaged in course design and delivery. Mr Francis Sumon Gomes and Mr Saifuddin Sabuj from Rupantar were trained in efacilitation (both) and Moodle design skills (Gomes) between April and July 2013, resulting in a new 7-week draft e-workshop titled “Radio Programme Content Development, Programme Production and Broadcasting.”

Locally Generated Materials Development Workshop

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in collaboration with COL and UNESCO Dhaka, facilitated two five-day capacity-building workshops in April 2014 for Community Education Centre Personnel on the development of locally generated materials. The objective of the workshop was to equip the participants with knowledge and skills for developing local-level materials to reduce dependency on central-level material developers and increase supply of local-level need-based skills training materials. In total, 40 facilitators, entrepreneurs and project-based employees were trained from the districts of Sylhet and Rangpur in Bangladesh.

Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand

To support women in higher education, COL sponsored 20 women faculty from higher education institutions in Africa and Asia by providing scholarships to undertake a one-year online certificate course in Designing and Facilitating eLearning (Level 5) of the OPNZ. This qualification is made up of three 20-credit courses and is delivered online through the Online Campus. Participating from Bangladesh in the programme was Ms Tasrun Jahan, BOU.

As of June 2014, another nine women in higher education from eight different countries, including Bangladesh, were sponsored to complete the Open OPNZ programme in designing and facilitating online learning/eLearning.

Community Learning Programmes Workshop for Women Broadcasters

In August 2014, CEMCA supported the SAARC-AMARC consultation on Community Radio and organised a workshop on Community Learning Programmes for 20 women broadcasters from 10 community radio stations of Bangladesh.

Quality Assurance for Open Schools Workshop

COL organised a Quality Assurance workshop in New Delhi from 8 to 12 September 2014. Mr Ananya Laboni and Dr Sadia Afroze Sultana both of BOU participated in the workshop.

Planning and Theory of Change for Open Schools

Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA planning meeting as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014. Dr Sadia Afroze Sultana, Dean of the BOU Open School, was elected as Deputy Chair which had become vacant. Mohammad Nasirul Islam of BOU also participated in the meeting and workshops.

Girls’ Leadership Workshop

From 26 September to 3 October 2014, COL facilitated a workshop, Leadership4Girls4Change, for 10 faculty members of the BOU Open School and 100 girls enrolled at BOU Open School centres.

ICT Leadership Workshop

Vice-Chancellors and senior leaders from India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh attended the ICT Leadership Workshop organised by CEMCA and OUSL at Kandy, Sri Lanka. Attending the workshop from Bangladesh was Professor M. A. Mannan.

As well, 16 Vice-Chancellors of Bangladesh and two Vice-Chancellors from India attended the ICT Leadership Workshop organised by CEMCA and BOU at Dhaka on 11-12 December 2014.

MATERIALS

Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes

Initially launched in 2002, the programmes were completely updated in 2013, with 12 courses revised and 10 courses rewritten. One new elective on Business Ethics was added, taking the total number of courses available to 23. Eleven partner institutions are currently offering the CEMBA/CEMPA programme. To date, 24,299 students have enrolled and 11,515
have graduated. For the current triennium, 4,961 have been reported to have enrolled and so far 3,814 have graduated. COL continues to receive updates on enrolment and graduation figures from partner institutions.

The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes have been offered by the Bangladesh Open University (BOU) since its inception in 2002. During 2012–2014, BOU in has had an enrolment of 393 students; and to date more than 338 students from BOU have graduated from the programmes.

**Print and Video Learning Materials for Skills Training**

Dhaka Ahsania Mission developed print and animation video learning materials in five skills training subjects in partnership with COL. The materials articulate to pre-vocational level 1 on the National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF). The training courses are being offered through DAM’s nearly 900 Community Learning Centres, as well as being made available to the 200+ NGOs in Bangladesh, offering skills training via CAMPE. Sixty members of the development community attended the launch of the materials in February 2013. Chief guest at the launch was Mr Md. Nazrul Islam Khan, Secretary for the Ministry of Information Communication Technology and COL Focal Point. The materials have been translated to English and are available as OER.

**Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) for Community Radio**

To encourage good practices in community radio, CEMCA has collaboratively developed, with its partner the UNESCO Chair on Community Media at the University of Hyderabad, a continuous improvement toolkit for good community radio practices with community radio practitioners. As a first step, comprehensive desktop research was undertaken to analyse the present scenario and identify indicators. Then a consultation meeting with community radio stations was organised to develop a set of indicators. In April 2013, a consultation meeting was held to review and validate the indicators developed.

On 13 May 2013, CEMCA supported a Validation Workshop on Community Radio Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) organised by the UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad. Eight community radio experts from India, Bangladesh and Australia, and five community radio practitioners in India, participated in an expert peer-group meeting. They arrived at a broad consensus on non-negotiable principles such as participation, community ownership and management, gender equity, and representation of marginalised groups, and also identified actionable indicators to ensure good community radio practices in the region. Mr A.H.M. Bazlur Rahman of Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) attended the meeting as an international expert. The toolkit, originally published in 2013 and revised in 2014, is available for use on COL’s website.

**Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate Materials Development**

In February 2014, COL convened a course materials workshop in Bangalore, India, to design and develop courses materials associated with the Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate. Mr Sumon Francis Gomes, of Rupantar, Bangladesh, participated in the workshop as a special member of the CLP course team, responsible for the adaptation of the “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course into Bangla.

**MODELS**

**Girls’ Innovation Project**

In March 2013, COL met with various stakeholders to discuss the outcome of the baseline study conducted for the Girls’ Innovation Project and to assist in the development of a work plan. The visit also served to raise awareness about the initiatives, and to sensitise the community about girls’ needs, abilities and prospects and create a supportive learning environment. Two funding proposals were developed for the Girls’ Innovation Project.

**COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)**

COL-RIM implementation was initiated at BOU before the end of December 2014 and is currently in progress.

**Lifelong Learning for Farmers Model**

In December 2014, COL met the Secretary, Ministry of Education, Mr Md. Nazrul Islam Khan, and briefed him about the activities of COL in agricultural sector. A meeting was held with BRAC to replicate L3F in Bangladesh and plans for a draft proposal are underway.

**Healthy Communities Model**

Over 40 local communication and health/development organisations have been engaged in Community Learning Programme (CLP) planning and design though a series of local training and mentoring workshops, led by partner Rupantar, covering planning, design and delivery of CLP.

In December 2012, COL met with A.H.M. Bazlur Rahman of the Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio and Communication to advance partnership and cooperation with other partners in South Asia. COL also met with Rafiqul Islam Kokhan and Swapan Guha, Executive Directors of Rupantar, to advance their plans for developing CLPs. Site visits to Khulna and Jhenidah
were undertaken to consult with community radio groups. Six community media groups were engaged in planning activities under the Healthy Communities initiative in Bangladesh.

As part of COL's collaboration with Rupantar to build capacities to develop CLPs on local health and development priorities, Rupantar conducted a survey of 10 community radio stations concerning programme planning, design and delivery practices, with the findings detailed and available in a report (May 2013).

Rupantar has coordinated efforts to build the capacities of a core team within Rupantar itself as well as of representatives of different national and local community media groups, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio and Communication, to plan, design and CLPs on priority health and development issues.

From 9 to 11 June 2013, CEMCA facilitated a three-day exploratory workshop for sustainable community radio stations in collaboration with the Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio Communication (BNNRC). Hosted by Radio Mahananda at Chapai Nawabgunj, the workshop was attended by two representatives from 12 of the 14 community radio stations. A total of 24 people attended the event (20 men and 4 women).

As a result of training and mentoring, seven CLPs have been operationalised through collaborative and participatory processes. In 2013/2014, over 75 hours of CLP content were designed, and had a total estimated listenership of 25,000. The sites include the following locations and topics:

- Pabahati, Jhenidah (Suicide; Healthcare of Pregnant Women)
- Sitakund, Chittagong (Adolescent Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS)
- Gobratola, Chapai Nawabgonj (Diabetics and First Aid)
- Nalta, Kalingonj, Satkhira (Maternal Healthcare and Waterborne Disease)
- Matar Kapon, Shamshernagar Road, Moulovibazar (Maternal Healthcare and Waterborne Disease)
- Chilmari, Kurigram (Waterborne Disease and Malnutrition)
- Padma, Rajshahi (Hygiene and Maternal Healthcare)

POLICIES

Regional Consultation on Quality Guidelines for OER

A regional consultation workshop, hosted by Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Hyderabad from 13 to 15 March 2013 brought together 49 experts from the Asian region to discuss and debate the necessity, usefulness, and relevance of the draft criteria and guidelines for quality OERs. Professor Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of European University of Bangladesh, attended the meeting.
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

When COL was established in 1987, His Majesty, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, made an important contribution that helped put the fledgling organisation on its feet. COL remains grateful for this generosity. Today, Brunei is an active participant in the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC).

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

COL’s Work on Brunei’s MDG Targets
- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to broaden access to education

AGREED PRIORITIES
- Establish a secure network for government schools and the Ministry of Education
- Support services for computing equipment
- Enable the Ministry of Education to access management information
- Integrate ICT into the “National Education System for the 21st Century” (SPN21) and future curriculum
- Engage learning through 21st-century pedagogies
- Blend Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) concept and next-generation ICT skills in the curriculum
- Produce ICT confident and capable global citizens grounded in Bruneian values and beliefs

COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

Quick Notes

COL Focal Point:
Mr Adinin Md Salleh, Secretariat of Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council, Ministry of Education

Areas of COL’s Work in Brunei:
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- VUSSC Master’s in Educational Leadership content used for professional development training
- The Brunei National Qualifications Framework referenced against the Transnational Qualifications Framework
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

HIGHLIGHTS

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Ministry of Education
► Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council
► Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education
► The University of Brunei

CAPACITY

Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Support to attend the Asia-Pacific Quality
► Network (APQN) 2013 Conference
► Higher Education Scholarships

MATERIALS

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► VUSSC Master’s in Educational Leadership content used for professional development training

MODELS

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Transnational Qualifications Framework

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Brunei was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Brunei. The following areas were identified:

► Promotion of literacy and numeracy (learners proficiency)
► Establishment of model schools
► Development of talent pipeline
► Increasing of teacher quality and professionalism
► Support for e-Hijrah projects (e-Hijrah is a coordinated, systemic and fully integrated national effort for ICT in education)
► Transformation of Brunei technical education
► Support for leadership development
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Brunei Darussalam

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Brunei is a member of VUSSC.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mr Adinin bin Md. Salleh represented Brunei Darussalam at the meeting.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica.

CAPACITY

Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC

A workshop was organised in Male, Maldives from 3 to 7 March 2013 specifically for the Asia Pacific region to build the capacity of implementers in designing and implementing the VUSSC M&E framework. It was supported by the Ministry of Education and the Maldives Villa College. Dr Jawawi Rosmawijah, Programme Leader for Continuing Professional Development and Deputy Dean (Academic) of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, attended the meeting. It was noted that the University of Brunei offers scholarships to a number of countries and an invitation was extended to VUSSC member states by the Brunei representative.

Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2013 Conference

COL supported six people from Brunei, India and the Maldives to attend the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2013 conference titled “Has External QA Made an Impact? Looking Back at the Decade of Quality Assurance,” held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 7 to 8 April 2013. Mr Adinin Md. Salleh of the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council participated in the conference.

Higher Education Scholarships

The Brunei Government offered five scholarships through COL. Five potential candidates from across the Commonwealth have applied and their applications are under consideration by higher education institutions in Brunei.

MATERIALS

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed including: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER. Dr Jawawi Rosmawijah, Programme Leader for Continuing Professional Development and Deputy Dean (Academic) of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education attended the workshop.

VUSSC Master’s in Educational Leadership Content for Professional Development Training

The University of Brunei is using content from the Master’s in Educational Leadership for Professional Development training.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF)

The Brunei National Qualifications Framework has now been referenced against the TQF.
India is the largest Commonwealth country, with a population of about 1.2 billion. COL’s most extensive country programme is in India. In addition, COL’s regional agency, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), is based in New Delhi. CEMCA develops regional expertise in open and distance learning (ODL) and information and communication technologies (ICT) in the Asian region, and organises capacity-building to respond to identified needs.

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Reduce child mortality and improve maternal health

**COL’s Work on India’s MDG Targets**
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing open educational resources (OER) and promoting ODL are underway
- The Lifelong Learning for Farmers model is empowering women and improving the livelihoods and food security of participants
- Support for Community Learning Programmes on child and maternal health is underway

**Quick Notes**
- Shri Satyanarayan Mohanty, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, represents India on COL’s Board of Governors
- Shri S.P. Goyal, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Areas of COL’s Work in India:**
- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers
- Healthy Communities
- eLearning
- CEMCA Regional Centre
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication
- British Council
- Creative Commons, USA
- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
- IT for Change (ITIC)
- Department of School Education Research and Training, Karnataka
- Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) Schools
- KNI Trust
- Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women’s University
- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)
- Tamil Nadu State Open School
- M.P. Bhoj University
- Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Bhopal
- Educational Technology and Management Academy (ETMA)
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU)
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- Nalanda Open University
- Gauhati University
- UNESCO
- National Academy for Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Bangalore Urban DIET (District Institute of Education and Training)
- Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University of Maharashtra (YCMOU)
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council
- Inter University Consortium (IUC), IGNOU
- University of Mumbai
- Krishna University
- Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
- Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University (VMOU)
- School of Open Learning (SOL), University of Delhi
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University
- Maraa
- Gurgaon ki Awaaz radio
- Jain University
- Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK)
- LMP Education Trust
- State Resource Center in Kerala
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- Ford Foundation
- Ideosync MediaCombine
- UNICEF
- University of Hyderabad
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)
- Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)
- Canara Bank
- Arul Anandar College (AAC)
- National Institute of Bank Management, India (NIBM)
- The Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
- Indian Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL)
- VIDIYAL
- Arul Anandar College (AAC)
- Reddiar Chatram Seed Growers Association (RSGA)
- Mann Deshi Foundation
- Uttarakhand Open University
- Central University of Himachal Pradesh
- University of Allahabad
- National Council for Science and Technology Communication, DST
- Broadcast Engineering Consultant India Ltd (BECIL)
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.  

- Gender Mainstreaming for Open Schools  
- Quality Assurance for Open Schools  
- Online Technologies for Virtual Open Schooling  
- eContent Development  
- Instructional Design in ODL  
- ICT for Elementary Teacher Educators  
- Communities of Practice for Teacher Educators  
- Support to attend the 2012 AAOU Conference  
- Leadership Development in Higher Education  
- Leadership Development for Women Academics  
- Support to attend the APQN 2013 Conference  
- Scholarships to Open Polytechnic of New Zealand  
- National workshop on OER for Skill Development  
- Support to attend Regional OER Symposium  
- OER-based eLearning  
- OER and Open Licensing Policies  
- OER workshops  
- OER and Self-Learning Materials  
- Community Radio workshops/seminars  
- Community Learning Programme Development  
- Materials workshop for Participatory Change  
- Communication Programme Development  
- eFacilitation and Instructional Design  
- Master Training for Community Radio  
- ICT Integrated Teacher Education  
- Open Educational Resources for Development workshops  
- ICT Leadership for Higher Education workshop  
- Panel discussion on community television and self-assessment of CR tools

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.  

- eLearning in Commonwealth Asia profiles  
- Curriculum Framework for Prison Inmates  
- Diploma in English Language Teaching  
- Leadership Development Materials  
- Pilot MOOC on OER  
- Legislative Drafting Programme  
- Modules/case studies on OER eLearning  
- Web radio system  
- Certificate in Community Development  
- Curriculum for Flexible Skills Training  
- L3F partner website and learning materials  
- Community Learning Programme Certificate course materials  
- Continuous Improvement Toolkit for Community Radio (CR-CIT)  
- Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)  
- Industry linked course for “Sound Assistant"  
- OER-TIPS

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Quality Assurance model for OER  
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers model  
- Healthy Communities model  
- CR-CIT for Community Radio Stations
POLICIES

A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► 2 draft institutional quality assurance policies
► Institutional OER Policy Template
► 2 Institutional OER Policies adopted
► 1 ICT Policy

OTHER

► Contributions to COL publications
► Speeches and presentations

HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for India was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of India. The following areas were identified:

► Transformation of the existing TVSD system into international standards, and scaling of the skilling process using technology-enabled learning
► Intervention in school education at the pedagogical level and provision of support to establish new open schools to increase access

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021

► Improving of teacher education and capacity by enriching teacher training in ICTs
► Improving of the capacities of teachers in higher education to engage in quality teaching and learning
► Development OER and MOOC to help teachers understand and integrate OER in teaching and learning
► Development of policy for integrating technology-enabled learning into curriculum and recognising credentials earned through the online or blended mode
PARTNERSHIPS

CEMCA and NIOS Partnership
CEMCA and NIOS signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2012 to establish a formal basis of cooperation in a collaborative effort to promote the scope of OER, use of educational media in open schooling, and technical vocational skill development.

CEMCA and IT for Change (ITfC) Partnership
CEMCA entered into an agreement with IT for Change (ITfC), Department of School Education Research and Training, Karnataka, to support two workshops under the Karnataka Open Educational Resources (KOER) project. The project was supported by the provincial state government. ITfC developed the Community of Practice teacher network.

Potential ICT Teacher Competency Programme – Exploratory Meetings
From 18 to 19 February 2013, COL met with key education officials at several private and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) schools in New Delhi to discuss the possibility of developing and delivering a programme to enhance teacher ICT competencies.

Support for Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women’s University eLearning Strategy
COL made two presentations at the SNDT Women’s University conference of Open and Flexible Distance Learning held in Mumbai from 20 to 23 February 2013. Meetings were held with the SNDT University Vice-Chancellor and Director of the Centre of Distance Education to discuss possible COL support for the development of an institutional eLearning strategy.

National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) Partnership
COL visited the NPTEL project offices in Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) at Chennai on 14 and 20 May 2013 to discuss the possibility of rendering foundation-level OER in STEM topics into Hindi and other Indian languages for use in mass distribution of laptops/tablets. NPTEL has agreed to the suggestion. COL also spent time with NPTEL to get first-hand information on the plans and practices to launch a massive open online course (MOOC) for learners seeking advanced IT skills to improve employability in IT industry. This has informed COL's learning of using MOOC as a mass training platform in a developing country.

CEMCA and BECIL Partnership
CEMCA and BECIL penned a Memorandum of Understanding at BECIL Bhavan, Noida on 5th of March, 2014 to identify possible avenues for collaboration and to establish the basis of collaboration where it is mutually beneficial, within the context of each organization’s mandate and existing obligations. Another two MoUs have been signed with the Gauhati University and Tamil Nadu Open University to offer the certificate course in distance learning mode from August 2014 and 2015 respectively.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)
COL sponsored 20 people to attend the forum.

Regional Focal Points Meeting
Shri Anand Kumar Singh represented India at the meeting.

Commonwealth Open Schools Association (COMOSA) Planning Meeting and Theory of Change Workshops
Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA planning meeting as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014. Kuldeep Agarwal of NIOS, Shanmugam Kannappan of Tamil Nadu State Open School, and Puja Jain (Minni) of the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies participated in the meeting and workshops.

Regional Symposium on Open Education
COL, in collaboration with the Kenyan Ministry of Education, convened a national and regional symposium on open education from 6 to 7 June 2013 in Nairobi with funding support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The symposium included representatives from 10 countries, and covered both post-secondary and secondary levels of education with special emphasis on open policy development and adoption at open schools in Africa and South Asia. The symposium concluded with draft plans for institutional OER policy developed. Mr Sukanta Mohapatra, Academic Officer at NIOS, attended the symposium.

National Consultative Workshop on Virtual Open Schooling
A national consultative workshop on “Virtual Open Schooling”, jointly organised by the NIOS and CEMCA, was held in New Delhi on October 16, 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to develop one new pedagogical model for open schools using advances in information and communication technology (ICT).
Technology in Higher Education in India Conference

COL/CEMCA participated in the two-day national conference on use of technology in higher education in India hosted by Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, from 25 to 26 February 2014.

Consultative Workshop on the National Vocational Educational Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) for Open Schools

India released the National Vocational Educational Qualifications Framework (NVEQF). As the NVEQF document has various levels, in partnership with NIOS, it was decided to focus at the school level (level 4) of NVEQF and develop a strategy that could be applied by all the open schools in India. Thus, a consultative workshop was planned for 19 to 22 June 2013 in Kochi, which brought together 27 stakeholders to discuss and debate why and how learning experiences can be organised for skills training at a distance, including the needed face-to-face exposure to learn motor skills.

Regional Institute of Education (RIE) Training Design Workshop

The Director, CEMCA, participated in a three-day training design workshop from 5 to 7 August 2012 and assisted the RIE, Mysore, in developing appropriate training design for eLearning.

International Conference on ICT Culture in Education

COL, through its regional centre CEMCA, supported the Educational Technology and Management Academy (ETMA) Council to host the International Conference on ICT Culture in Education held in Delhi from 27 to 29 September 2012.

Support for “Radio for Equitable Education to All” Seminar

COL supported four experts from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to attend a seminar titled “Radio for Equitable Education to All,” hosted by the Distance Education Programme — Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi from 27 to 29 December 2012.

18th Annual Indian Distance Education Association (IDEA) Conference

COL supported the Directorate of Distance Education at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) to host the 18th Annual Indian Distance Education Association (IDEA) Conference held in Hyderabad, India, from 5 to 7 April 2013.

Use of Technology in Higher Education Conference

At the invitation of the Planning Commission, Government of India, the Director of CEMCA participated in a two-day national conference on use of technology in higher education.

Guidelines on MOOCs in Indian Higher Education Meeting

On 11 January 2014, CEMCA attended a meeting held by The University Grants Commission, India, and contributed to the development of guidelines on MOOCs in Indian higher education. Professor Ram Takwale, Professor V.S. Prasad, Professor Deepak Phatak, Professor T.V. Prabhakar, Professor D. Harichandan and Professor S. Vadivelu attended the meeting.

Workshop on MOOC as a Platform for a Meta-University

On 15 May 2013, COL attended a one-day workshop hosted by Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) and chaired by Professor Ram Takwale. About 45 representatives of five universities in the Pune region discussed the feasibility of launching a meta-university using MOOC as a platform. COL initiated discussion, covering MOOC, OER and access to devices such as tablets.

Attending the workshop were 61 participants, including Chairman/Directors of State Open Schools, Vice-Chancellors of State Open Universities, representatives of the National Council for Educational Research and Training, Central Board of Secondary Education, Kendriya Vidyalya Sangathan and Jawahar Nehru Vidyalya, officials from CEMCA and NIOS, and eminent educationists in the field of Information and Communication Technology and Education.
OER in Higher Education and Training in Agriculture Workshop

COL collaborated with the National Academy for Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Hyderabad to organise a workshop on OER in higher education and training in agriculture at NAARM on 16 May 2013. The workshop recommendations are under consideration for inclusion in ICAR’s next Five-Year Plan by the Deputy Director General, Education Division.

CAPACITY

Gender Mainstreaming for Open Schools

To ensure that Open Schools mainstream gender in their activities, COL organised a COMOSA workshop from 13 to 17 March 2013 in Delhi to discuss the Gender Equality Guidelines developed by a COL consultant. Attending the workshop were 19 representatives from Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Canada, India, Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and United Kingdom.

Gender Workshops: Strategic Planning, Management Systems and Learner Support for Open Schools

Refined Gender Guidelines are being pilot-tested in India with the NIOS. Three gender workshops in Strategic Planning, Management Systems, and Learner Support Services were held as part of this testing in 2014.

Quality Assurance for Open Schools

COL organised a Quality Assurance workshop in New Delhi from 8 to 12 September 2014. Participating in the workshop were: Venkateswara Rao of Andhra Pradesh State Open School, Jyotismita Das Borah of Assam State Open School, G.L. Verma of Himachal Pradesh State Open School, K.M. Veeriah of Karnataka Open School, Santosh Kumar Tripathy of Madhya Pradesh State Open School, Vincent De Paul of Tamil Nadu State Open School, and Manju Gupta, T. N. Giri and Sandhya Kumar all of NIOS.

Using Online Technologies for Virtual Open Schooling

CEMCA assisted the National Institute of Open Schooling, India to sensitise its staff and that of the State Open Schools in India to use online technologies for implementation of Virtual Open Schooling. A workshop was conducted from 11 to 13 February 2013 at the Inter University Consortium for Technology Enabled Flexible Education and Development (IUC-TEFED) facility by resource persons drawn from NIOS. Based on the feasibility study recommendations on Virtual Open Schooling, the workshop provided hands-on training to the 22 participants on how to use Mediawiki and a learning management system (LMS) to create open courses and provide one-to-one support to the learners through the LMS.

eContent Development

In May 2014, 23 academic staff of NIOS (15 women and 8 women) received training on e-content development of courses involving Moodle platform and eXe software for Virtual Open Schooling. The technical sessions were conducted by Mr Pankaj Tiwari, Resource Person from the agency that developed the VOS platform. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Sitansu S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS, and the valedictory session was presided over by Dr Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA. As post-workshop follow-up, academic staff of NIOS will prepare the individual subject based e-contents using the Moodle platform for VOS.

Instructional Design in ODL

As part of the process of building the capacity of staff to design, develop and implement new ODL courses, 30 academic staff members of Gauhati University, India, were trained on instructional design in May 2013.

ICT Training for Elementary Teacher Educators

In collaboration with Distance Education Programme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA), IGNOU, CEMCA organised a workshop to extend ICT training to elementary teacher educators from four districts in North India under DEP-SSA and to create a Community of Practice (CoP) in collaboration with IT for Change. The workshop was held from 11 to 15 March 2013, and 17 teacher educators from northern India learned to use ICTs effectively.

Communities of Practice (CoP) for Teacher Educators

A workshop on ICT-integrated teacher education, Communities of Practice (CoP) for Teacher Educators, was conducted at the Bangalore Urban DIET (District Institute of Education and Training), from 3 to 7 June 2013, for CTE (College of Teacher Education) and DIET faculty from the Bangalore and Mysore divisions. Twenty-three teacher educators were trained to use open source software for ICT-integrated teacher education. The second workshop for teacher educators in Karnataka was held from 11 to 15 June 2013. Approximately 60 teachers were trained in the use of ICTs for teacher education. The CoP is populated to develop a culture of sharing amongst teacher educators.
Scholarship to the Open University of Malaysia

COL provided a scholarship for the Master’s in Instructional Design Technologies (MIDT) offered through the Open University of Malaysia to one student in India.

Support to Attend the 2012 Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference

Eight candidates (four men and four women) from India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were supported to attend the AAOU conference titled “Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge through Open Distance Learning in Changing Societies” held in Chiba, Japan, 16–18 October 2012. From India were: Gujar Rucha of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University; and Singh Kaushalendra, Gupta Ravindra, Santosh Sujata and Kindo Mridula of Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Leadership Development in Higher Education

COL, in collaboration with Yashwantrao Chavan Open University of Maharashtra (YCMOU) and the Association of Indian Universities, organised a workshop from 26 to 28 February 2013 at YCMOU, Nasik, on Leadership Development in Higher Education. Twenty-four Vice-Chancellors/representatives attended the workshop to build leadership capacity in higher education and to pilot-test the online training programme content on leadership developed by COL.

OER Workshop for Academics from State Open Universities

COL collaborated with the Inter University Consortium of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to coordinate a workshop on OER for 22 academics from 12 state open universities. The workshop was held from 6 to 8 March 2013 in the IUC multimedia laboratory.

Leadership Development for Women Academics

COL, in collaboration with the Open University of Sri Lanka, organised a regional workshop from 18 to 20 March 2013 on leadership development for 24 senior women academics in South Asia. Facilitators of the workshop were Professor Uma Coomaraswamy and Professor Madhulika Kaushik. Also participating in the workshop was Dr Anuradha Deshmukh, Dean at YCMOU.

Support to Attend the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2013 Conference

COL supported six people from Brunei, India and the Maldives to attend the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2013 conference titled “Has External QA Made an Impact? Looking Back at the Decade of Quality Assurance,” held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 7 to 8 April 2013. Dr Kondapalli Rama, Dr M.S. Shyamasundar and Dr Sujata P. Shanbhag of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council participated in the conference.

Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (OPNZ)

To support women in higher education, COL sponsored 20 women faculty from higher education institutions in Africa and Asia by providing scholarships to undertake a one-year online certificate course in Designing and Facilitating eLearning (Level 5) of the OPNZ. This qualification is made up of three 20-credit courses and is delivered online through the Online Campus. Participating from India in the programme was Ms Shivali Chawla, Vocational Department, NIOS.

As of June 2014, another nine women in higher education from eight different countries, including India, were sponsored to complete the Open OPNZ programme in designing and facilitating online learning/eLearning.

Support to Attend the Regional Symposium on OER

In September 2012, COL supported Dr Kavita Laghate, Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS), University of Mumbai in attending the Regional Symposium on OER, “An Asian Perspective on Policy and Practices,” in Penang, Malaysia.

OER-Based eLearning

CEMCA held an institutional capacity-building workshop on OER-based eLearning from 29 January to 1 February 2013 at Wawasan Open University, Malaysia, aimed at developing competencies in integrating OER in teaching and learning, and took steps to develop a course on OER-based eLearning. Twenty-seven teachers from eight ODL institutions in the region, including from India, participated in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia. Attending the meeting were Ms G. Mythili, Analyst, STRIDE of Indira Gandhi National Open University, Dr Ankuran Dutta, Faculty and Deputy Director, Multimedia of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, and Mr Shailendra Kishore Prasad, System Analyst of National Institute of Open Schooling.

Open Educational Resources and Open Licensing Policies in the Indian Context

CEMCA, in association with Creative Commons, USA, organised a workshop on “Open Educational Resources and Open Licensing Policies in the Indian Context” on 22 February 2013 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Twenty-seven participants from Indian institutions who are engaged
in production and distribution of teaching-learning materials participated in the advocacy workshop on Open Licensing for educational resources.

Open Educational Resource Workshops

CEMCA supported the workshop on “Open Educational Resources” held at the Apeejay Stya University (ASU) Campus from 26 to 28 April 2013. Twenty-five teachers in higher education were oriented in the use and creation of OER. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Savithri Singh and Dr Sarita Kumar from Acharya Narendra Dev College, New Delhi.

CEMCA supported the workshop on “Open Educational Resources” held at the Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) Campus from 18 to 19 February 2015. Thirty teachers in higher education were oriented in the use and creation of OER. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Ramesh Sharma and Dr Manas Ranjan Panigrahi from CEMCA, New Delhi.

The Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University (VMOU) in Kota was host to over 20 teacher-participants from VMOU and nine universities in Rajasthan to discuss the potentials of OER and develop skills to create OER in a workshop organised at the University Campus in Kota from 17 to 19 May 2013. CEMCA facilitated the workshop.

Open Educational Resources and Self-Learning Materials

Thirty teachers at the School of Open Learning (SOL), University of Delhi, participated in a workshop on “Open Educational Resources and Self-Learning Materials” organised by SOL from 8 to 10 May 2013. The workshop was supported by CEMCA and facilitated by Dr Ramesh Sharma and Dr Pankaj Khare.

OER-Based eLearning for Prospective Online Course

From 6 to 9 January 2014, CEMCA facilitated a workshop on OER-based eLearning for the prospective facilitators of the upcoming online course at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University in Hyderabad. Dr Som Naidu, the consultant and chief resource person, guided the workshop and Dr Sanjaya Mishra moderated the group discussions.

From 22 to 24 December 2014, CEMCA facilitated a workshop on OER-based eLearning for the prospective facilitators of the online course at the CEC in New Delhi. Dr Som Naidu, the consultant and chief resource person, guided the workshop and Dr Manas Ranjan Panigrahi moderated the group discussions.

Fellowship to the Open University of Malaysia and Wawasan Open University

CEMCA offered a fellowship to three middle-level officers of Open Universities and Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, to visit the Open University of Malaysia and Wawasan Open University. The study tour was undertaken from 29 October to 3 November 2012, and aimed at understanding the best practices that are followed by these ODL institutions in governance, financial management and student support services.

AMARC and UNESCO Community Radio Workshops/Seminars

AMARC South Asia and the UNESCO Chair on Community Media held two back-to-back events in Delhi, India. A seminar held from 17 to 18 January 2013 on “Voices for Change and Peace: Seminar for Taking Stock of Community Radio in South Asia,” was followed by a four-day training workshop for women community radio broadcasters of South Asia, titled “Enhancing Access To Community Media, Promoting Positive Social Change and Peace Building Through Community Broadcasting.” Attending the two events were invited experts and participants from South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan) and Supriya Sahu, Joint Secretary (Broadcasting), Government of India. COL, with the assistance of CEMCA, supported some of the sessions and sponsored 10 women broadcasters from community radio stations in India to attend.

As a follow-up to the training workshop for women community radio broadcasters, COL collaborated with Maraaz to run a 7-month distance training and mentoring programme for 12 women broadcasters to plan and design gender-responsive community learning programmes on priority health and development issues. Distance training and mentoring was complemented by a face-to-face workshop on participatory design of community learning programmes, held in August 2014 in Dharamsala.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Four regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners as part of the Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate, which will result in new CLP design and delivery.

Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run in 2013/2014. In the February to March 2014 edition, 22 participants from India were involved in the training.

The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. In April to June 2014, 10 participants from India received training.

The 5-week Communication Channels and Media Forms e-course was run in 2014. In August 2014, 19 participants from India received training resulting in completed CLP plans.
The 6-week Participatory Learning Design (blended) e-course was run in 2014. In September to October 2014, 13 participants from India received training, which will result in completed CLP design documents.

The 6-week Scriptwriting and Episode Production (blended) e-course is being run in 2014/2015.

The 5-week Sustainability and Sponsorship e-course is being run in 2015.

Materials Workshop for Participatory Change Communication Programme Development

A course development workshop was held from 28 April to 5 May 2013 in Kingston, Jamaica, to strengthen the foundations for future training/mentoring materials development in distance mode through the joint efforts of key COL partners in “participatory change communication programme” development. The workshop combined skills training in learning design and eLearning course development (using Moodle and related tools) with actual course/programme mapping, planning and materials development. Participating in the workshop were: Rosamond Brown, Transformative Communication Partners (Jamaica); Monica James, Maraa (India); Busiswe Ngcebetsha, Media and Training Centre for Health (South Africa); Patrick Prendergast, Transformative Communication Partners (Jamaica); and Charles Simbi, Centre for Development Communication (Malawi). The workshop was facilitated by Sandy Hirtz of Canada.

eFacilitation and Instructional Design

In its efforts to build the capacity of its national and regional partners to offer distance training and mentoring, COL has supported training in e-facilitation and instructional design through distance courses, of 5 and 10 weeks, respectively. Following training, e-facilitators and course designers are engaged in course design and delivery.

Three editions of the course in eFacilitation were run in 2013 (March to April 2013; September to October 2013; and August to September 2014). The following people from India received training: Anushi Agrawal, Monica James, Susan Koshy, Devileena Bose and Ekta Mittal, all of Maraa; and Arti Jaiman of The Restoring Force/Gurgaon ki Awaaz.

The course in Instructional Design was run from May to July 2013 and October to December 2014. Ms Monica James from Maraa (Bangalore) participated, resulting in a new 5-week e-workshop titled “Communication for Development: Why. How. Now.” Ms Devileen Bose participated in the training in 2014.

Master Training Workshop for Community Radio

From 6 to 9 March 2013, a Master Training Workshop was held at Sohna, Haryana. Sixteen community women from six community radio stations were trained as Master Trainers in a training cascade to enable at least 60 other grassroots women to engage meaningfully with community radio for their own learning and development. From 1 to 4 April 2013, a second Master Training Workshop was held in Jain University, Kanakpura. Twenty-one community women and three men from eight community radio stations were trained as Master Trainers in a training cascade to enable at least 80 other grassroots women to engage meaningfully with community radio for their own learning and development.

Panel Discussion on Potential for Community Television and Self-assessment of CR-Tools

In July 2014, CEMCA organised two panel discussions, “Potential for Community Television in South Asia and Self-assessment of CR-Tools and Experiences,” at the pre-conference event on Building Community- Shaping Change as a part of the IAMCR 2014 Conference in Hyderabad, India.

ICT-Integrated Teacher Education

In a workshop in November 2014, 22 teacher educators (17 men and 5 women) of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) in Madhya Pradesh, India, strengthened their capacities in integrating ICT in teacher education. Additionally, from 20 to 24 January 2015, and 3 to 7 February 2015 CEMCA organised and participated in a workshop on ICT- Integrated Teacher Education for Teacher Educators of Karnataka, in collaboration with DSERT, Karnataka. forty-six elementary teacher educators from 18 DIETs and Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) participated in this 5-day training workshop, including 22 women participants. CEMCA also organised a workshop from 15 to 17 April 2015 on ICT-integrated Teacher Educators of Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with Central University of Himachal Pradesh and 27 DIET teacher educators were participated.

Open Educational Resources for Development Workshops

CEMCA conducted workshops on Open Educational Resources for Development at Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Gauhati, and Maulana Azan National Urdu University, Hyderabad, as part of a research project supported by IDRC, Canada.

ICT Leadership Workshops

CEMCA organised the first ICT Leadership in Higher Education event in Hyderabad, India from 24 to 26 February 2013 in which 42 university leaders from all over India, including all the Vice Chancellors of Indian Open Universities, participated. Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju, then Minister for Human Resource Development, Government of India, inaugurated the event.
This was followed by two other similar event in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 2014. On 6 to 7 June 2014, Vice-Chancellors of Sri Lanka and senior leaders from India and Bangladesh attended the ICT Leadership Workshop organised by CEMCA and OUSL at Kandy, Sri Lanka. Present were: Professor Ram Prakash Upadhyaya, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda Open University; Professor K.R. Iqbal Ahmed, Director, Distance Education, Maulana Azad National Urdu University; Professor Kandarpa Das, Director, IDOL, Gauhati University; Professor Madhu Parhar, IGNOU; and Dr Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA (Resource Person).

Two Vice-Chancellors from India attended the ICT Leadership Workshop organised by CEMCA and BOU at Dhaka in December 2014.

MATERIALS

eLearning in Commonwealth Asia 2013

CEMCA published a study and compilation of eLearning country profiles of Commonwealth Asian countries in November 2013 entitled “eLearning in Commonwealth Asia 2013.” The publication was authored by S.K. Pulist and edited by Dr Sanjaya Mishra. The findings of the study indicate that the implementation of eLearning in Commonwealth Asian countries is an increasing trend.

Modular Curriculum Framework for Prison Inmates

COL organised a workshop on “Education Services to Prison Inmates” in Namibia from 17 to 21 September 2012. The tangible outcome of the workshop included the development of a unique modular curriculum framework for prison inmates that had a core set of four mandatory courses (Practical Math Skills, Practical Language Skills, Practical Computer Skills and Practical Life Skills). Dr Uday Khaware of NIOS attended the workshop.

ODL Diploma in English Language Teaching (Dip ELT)

An ODL Diploma in English Language Teaching (Dip ELT) programme was designed and approved; and modules have been developed and are being pilot tested. The programme was officially launched on 11 September 2014. Twenty-six students are enrolled in the Dip ELT while another 15 students of the Master’s in ELT are also using the modules.

Leadership Development Materials

Leadership Development materials were created in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) in 2011–2012. The materials were piloted at YCMOU from 26 to 28 February 2013.

Pilot MOOC on OER

COL, in collaboration with LMP Education Trust, launched a pilot MOOC on OER on 9 August 2013. This MOOC was designed to help participants gain the knowledge and develop the skills needed to be successful in learning from OERs or in teaching the chosen subject to post-secondary students and lifelong learners using OERs. The duration of the MOOC was 4 weeks, with extended time of 2 weeks for those who were unable to complete within the 4-week timeframe.

The Legislative Drafting Programme

IGNOU is licensed to offer the Legislative Drafting Programme. The Legislative Drafting Programme, developed jointly with the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, is offered by COL through partner universities in the Commonwealth. The courses were revised in 2002 and then revised and completely updated again in 2013. The student version of the programme has been converted to OER and is freely downloadable from the COL website for use by institutions, academics, learners and professionals who want to develop competencies in legislative drafting.

Modules and Case Studies on OER-Based eLearning for Online Course

CEMCA held the second workshop on institutional capacity-building for OER-based eLearning from 9 to 14 June 2013 at WOU, Malaysia. Five modules and four case studies on OER-based eLearning were finalised and are ready for editing and deployment online. The online course to be developed as a result of this workshop will assist other institutions to benefit, and assist in their capacity-building efforts. The workshop was attended by 17 participants, including attendees from India and Sri Lanka. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia.

The University Web Radio system at Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University

The University Web Radio system at Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, was launched in 2013. The system was developed with CEMCA’s support and is completely Open Source-based.

Certificate in Community Development

COL has an ongoing partnership with the State Resource Centre in Kerala to convert a conventional training programme for community development volunteers to distance delivery. Four courses are in development with COL consultant Professor Santosh Panda providing remote support and facilitating workshops.
From 29 January to 1 February 2013, COL worked with the programme team of the State Resource Centre in Kerala to develop the distance education Certificate and Diploma in Community Development. A workshop to further develop capacity in learner support systems was held in July 2013. Materials development has been delayed, but the programme will launch by the end of 2015.

The target is 300 preraks to join the Certificate in Community Development and each be working in the community with 20–30 learners on literacy and skills for income generation.

From January 29 to February 1, 2013, COL worked with the programme team of the State Resource Centre in Kerala developing the distance education Certificate and Diploma in Community Development. A workshop to further develop capacity in learner support systems was held in July 2013.

**Curriculum Development for Flexible Skill Training**

CEMCA participated in a workshop in curriculum development for flexible skill training at the Tamil Nadu Open University in May 2014. Experts in the seven groups worked together to develop the curriculum for flexible skill development. For each trade, seven grades were visualised according to components such as theory, practice and use of technology tools, and were covered in the curriculum. Further fine tuning and validation of the developed curriculum will give a final framework that could be adopted by different ODL institutions. Dr Chandrakanta Jayebalan of TNOU, and Professor K. Murugan and Professor P. Thyagarajan were involved in the workshop.

**L3F Farmer-Managed Website and Learning Materials**

A group of L3F farmers who are managing their own website developed it in dual language (Tamil and English) and uploaded learning materials for 17 crops.

**Material Development for Community Learning Programme Certificate**

In October 2013, COL convened a course materials workshop in Nairobi in order to design and develop course materials associated with the Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developers’ Certificate, a new distance training and mentor certificate offered in association with national and regional partners of the Healthy Communities initiative in Africa. Ms Monica James, Maraa Media Collective, India, participated in the workshop, which finalised the first course in the certificate “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.”

In February 2014, COL convened a CEMCA/Maraa course materials workshop in Bangalore to design and develop courses materials associated with the CLP Developers’ Certificate. Ms Ekta Mittal, Ms Monica James and Mr Ramnath Bhat, all from the Maraa Media Collective, India, participated in the workshop as members of the CLP course team, which finalised the course Research for (CLP) Planning during the workshop. The workshop took place in February 2014 and gathered together stations from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Seven community women and five men from seven community radio stations received training as Master Trainers to enable each of them to further train at least 10 other community women to help them engage with community radio for their own learning and development.

**Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) for Community Radio**

To encourage good practices in community radio, CEMCA has collaboratively developed a continuous improvement toolkit for good community radio practices with community radio practitioners.

From 8 to 9 October 2012, CEMCA organised the initial two-day consultative workshop to discuss self-assessment guidelines for community radio, which would culminate in a toolkit for practitioners. Six experts – Supriya Sahu of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Ravina Aggarwal of the Ford Foundation; I. Panevska of UNESCO; N. Ramakrishnan and Venu Arora of Ideosync Media; and Alka Malhotra of UNICEF— together with 15 community radio participants, attended the workshop.

A workshop for development of the Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) for Community Radio was held from 29 to 30 March 2013 at the University of Hyderabad, and hosted by the UNESCO Chair on Community Media. Representatives of 10 community radio stations in India participated in developing indicators for continuous improvement of community radio practices in the region.

On 25 April 25 and 13 May 2013, CEMCA supported validation workshops on the CR-CIT organised by the UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad. Eight community radio experts from India, Bangladesh and Australia, and five community radio practitioners in India, in an expert peer-group meeting, arrived at a broad consensus on non-negotiable principles such as participation, community ownership and management, gender equity, and representation of marginalised groups, and also identified actionable indicators to ensure good community radio practices in the region.

Field testing of the CR-CIT was organised in Bengaluru, India. The CR-CIT allows community radio stations to periodically assess themselves on their performance and provides for indicators of performance in nine basic parameters. Continuing the work related to further refinement of CR-CIT, this was the
second workshop in 2013–2014 and the first one in India. The main objective of this field testing of the CR-CIT was to help get feedback on both the process and the content of the toolkit. The CR-CIT was published in 2013 and revised in 2014, and is available for use on COL's website.

Certificate in Community Radio Technology (CCRT)

CCRT is a certificate course of 6 months duration. In partnership with BECIL, CEMCA has developed the learning materials for the 9 modules incorporating 30 Units and 22 Videos. The materials are available as Open Educational Resource for interested institutions to start offering distance learning programmes. This course has been launched by Gauhati University, Guwahati, Tamil Nadu Open University and the process of launching has started in other institutions, such as Uttarakhand Open University.

MOOC on Mobiles for Development (M4D)

COL convened a brainstorming workshop on Mobiles for Development (M4D) on 5 May 2013 at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, to explore current advances in mobile technologies in education and agriculture sectors. Key officials of Union Government and the State of Uttar Pradesh, along with senior faculty of IIT Kanpur and researchers from for-profit and public sectors and NIOS, participated. As follow-up to the exploratory workshop on M4D in May 2013, COL partnered with IIT Kanpur to launch a six-week MOOC on Mobiles for Development (M4D) in early October 2013. This course attracted 2,255 registrants from 115 countries. Of these, about 25% were women. Grenada, India, Mauritius, Nepal and South Africa were the top five sources of participants, with Ghana and Tanzania coming next. A pedagogical review of the MOOC on M4D was published.

Currently, COL continues its partnership with IIT in Kanpur in offering MOOCS for development. COL is also engaged with NPTEL, India’s large OER publishing project (STEM topics) on licensing and in developing new MOOCS. In February 2015, COL participated in and facilitated sessions and meetings involving the IIT system (Kanpur campus in particular) and NPTEL (its coordination office is based on the Chennai campus of IIT) including:

► a workshop on planning and launch of AgMOOCs;
► a workshop on the use of large OER collections and online learning, and the opportunity to create a formal structure around MOOCS;
► one event working hands-on with the MOOKIT development team; and

► one event related to the process documentation for MOOC for “Malis.”

MOOC on MOOCs

The Commonwealth of Learning, with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) launched a second 4-week MOOC on MOOCs in early September 2014. This course attracted 2,342 registrants from 92 countries, the top five being India, Nepal, Mauritius, South Africa and Canada.

MOOC on Integration of OER in Teaching and Learning

COL entered into a partnership with NCERT to mount a MOOC on integration of OER in teaching and learning. A MOOC entitled “Teach Smarter with OER” was subsequently developed and was run by NCERT. This MOOC started on 5 September 2014 (India’s national teachers’ day). In September 2014, COL had a meeting with staff of NCERT and mentors involved in the MOOC “Teach Smarter with OER” and discussed the progress of the MOOC and ways of improving its delivery.

MODELS

COL’s Institutional Quality Assurance (QA) Model

COL’s Institutional QA model was implemented at the Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati.

Scaling-Up and Replication of the Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) Model

The Canara Bank of Dindigul District, India organised a meeting from 26 to 27 December 2012 between bankers and NGOs to discuss the progress of the L3F in Dindigul District. Representatives from seven banks and eight NGOs were at the meeting. COL participated in the meeting and discussed the strategies for policy advocacy and scaling up. COL also had discussions with Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) about the progress of the ODL programme for participatory research.

COL supported Arul Anandar College (AAC) to host a two-day conference titled “National Conference on Food Security: Issues and Concerns” held in Madurai 21 to 22 February 2013. Several resolutions were adopted and passed outlining strategies for strengthening food security through the L3F initiative with the involvement of financial institutions. While attending a meeting at the University of Guelph, Canada, COL had a review meeting on 27 March 2013 with the L3F team from Tamil Nadu regarding the 2013–2014 action plan.
Efforts made during the 2012–2013 period led to an additional 13,000 learners, of which 65% are women. This also led to the provision of CAD$1.4 million in credit/loans to 4,800 learners.

In December 2013, a three day workshop in Pune was held with L3F participants from India and Sri Lanka in which stakeholders identified strategies for evolving a self-sustaining L3F process. A research study conducted by TANUVAS through mobile phones involved 748 farmers and tested the microbial supplements for dairy. The study was concluded in June 2013.

The National Institute of Bank Management, India (NIBM) and COL published a paper in December 2013 entitled “Investments by the Commercial Banks in Training of Rural Communities and its Impact: Scope of Open and Distance Learning” by consultants Naneen Kumar K. and Anjali Kulkarni. The study showed that the banks in India earned better income through interest from L3F borrowers compared with non-L3F borrowers.

In May 2014, COL organised a workshop in Chennai with stakeholders including The Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Indian Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL), VIDIYAL, Arul Anandar College (AAC) and Reddiar Chatram Seed Growers Association (RSGA). Both the IOB and IKSL showed interest in replicating L3F. As a result of this meeting, COL is developing a strategy paper on involving banks as facilitators in L3F, and developing a concept note on consolidating multiple L3F financial literacy courses.

Mann Deshi Foundation and Mann Deshi Women’s Cooperative Bank reached more than 30,000 participants through structured learning, using community radio, Aptus-classroom without wall, and mobile phones. In Tamil Nadu, VIDIYAL, a partner in L3F, in association with other NGOs, facilitated CADS$13.64 million worth of credit during 2012–2014 under L3F, after ensuring strong financial literacy and agricultural enterprise management skills among 20,932 farmers during 2012–2014. The borrowers have repaid 94% of the four- to five-year term credit with interest within two years to commercial banks, cooperative banks and microfinance institutions. Similarly, another L3F partner, RSGA, built the capacity of 9,973 farmers using mobile phones Internet and other forms of blended learning and enabled them to access credit to the tune of CAD$4.9 million on a four- to five-year loan since 2012, out of which nearly 93% have been already repaid by the borrowers.

In November and December 2014, COL met with partners of L3F in Tamil Nadu to discuss the institutionalisation of L3F in India with the help of financial institutions. In a two-day workshop, the partners briefed the progress during the last two years and identified strategies for consolidating the activities during January to June 2015. Additionally, a meeting was held with Bharatiya Mahila Bank for upscaling L3F. Developing a course on financial literacy through mobile phone to support the Prime Minister’s “Jan Dhan” programme was discussed. The L3F activities of Mann Deshi Women Cooperative Bank were also reviewed and the activities for the next six months were identified. COL also met with the senior officials of Canara Bank who showed interest in institutionalising L3F within the bank.

Healthy Communities Model

COL supports the development of community radio stations in India as part of the Healthy Communities Community Learning Programme (CLP) model. In December 2012, COL met with Supriya Sahu of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to discuss strategies to promote communication for development programming on community radio. In December 2012, COL held a series of meetings with possible partners in relation to the development of CLPs in India. COL met with Ms Venu Arora of Idoesync, a consulting group working in communication for development and community radio in India, to discuss possible future collaboration. Meetings were held with staff of UNICEF India to discuss respective work with community radio, with a view to future direction and possible cooperation.

A baseline study of non-formal ODL programmes in Gurgaon, Haryana, was conducted by Maraa (Bangalore) in September and October 2012, including research into availability, quality and usage of health and development related programming. On 13 December 2012, COL co-facilitated in a CLP planning workshop in Gurgaon in which 12 representatives of local health stakeholders, government, media and community groups were engaged in a programme planning workshop for a new community learning initiative. The workshop resulted in a draft plan for a new CLP to be led by Gurgaon ki Awaaz, the local community radio station. Follow-up workshops were conducted in Gurgaon (February and April 2013) to design the CLP, to integrate mobile telephony (May 2013) and finally produce programme content (June 2013). As a result, Chahat Chowk, a CLP about women’s sexual and reproductive health, was launched in Gurgaon in July 2013 with 60-minute episodes airing weekly, complemented by face-to-face community mobilisation and discussion. Sixteen episodes in Phase I (60–90 minutes) were delivered twice between July 2013 and March 2014. A second set of 16 episodes was produced and aired in two cycles between May and December 2014. Some 850 regular users of the programme have been identified.

In February 2014, COL participated in the stakeholders meeting in Gurgaon for the second phase of the Chahat Chowk CLP. After the meeting, COL met with Dr Pushpa Bishnoi, the Civil
Surgeon in Gurgaon, to discuss the CLP and COL’s approach to advocacy. Research into programme implementation and outcomes has been run, led by the Ideosync Media Combine, in tandem with the CLP development and delivery. A research project investigating CLP outcomes in Mullahera, Gurgaon, specifically learning and social and behaviour change outcomes, was initiated in June 2013 under the leadership of the Ideosync Media Combine, led by Ms Venu Arora, with comparative results from follow-up research published in interim and final reports in November 2013 and May 2014. A second phase of outcome research was established in May 2014 with reports expected in 2015. Findings from the Chahat Chowk outcome research were presented by Ms Venu Arora at a special session on 5 December 2014 at the 7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning.

In February 2014, COL met with Gram Vaani, a group that works with mobile applications for community-based dialogue, learning and advocacy, to discuss the opportunities for collaboration in the application of the CLP model to the Mobile Vaani mobile phone-based information platform, which is running in a successful pilot in Jharkhand.

COL visited Radio Active (RA) in February 2014, a six-year-old community radio station based at Jain University in central Bangalore. Six members of the station were involved in the visit.

Through a joint COL-CEMCA activity in 2013/2014, women broadcasters from 18 stations in the north and south were trained and mentored in the planning and design of CLPs. Regional workshops were held in November 2013 (New Delhi), February (Bangalore) and June (New Delhi) to train trainers; and local workshops were held in 15 communities as part of actual programme development work. As a result of training/mentoring, CLPs have been designed or developed in 11 communities, including Gurgaon and Mewat, Haryana; Bengaluru and Tumkur, Karnataka; Chambal, Madhya Pradesh; Azamgarh and Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh; and Chamba and Kumaon, Uttarakhand.

From 10 to 12 December 2012, CEMCA supported Deccan Radio, Hyderabad to carry out a SWOT analysis and to develop a plan of action in consultation with the community it serves to work towards sustainable operation of the community radio station. Deccan Radio will serve as a blueprint of a sustainable Community Radio model. Attending the workshop were Nasreen Begum and Ghousia Begum, community volunteers; Syeda Sadia, Wajida Tabassum, Nazia Sultana, Safoora Nuzhat, Zeesha Farhat, Faheem Ansari, Zahed Farooqui, M. Ismail Ahmed of Deccan Radio, Zaheeruddin Ali Khan and Amer Ali Khan of AAK Trust and Farhana Jabeen, Researcher.

Quality Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER)

CEMCA is engaged in developing quality guidelines for OER. The objective is to assist users of OER to assess quality from a lens devised by them using the criteria in the guidelines. A regional consultation workshop, hosted by Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Hyderabad from 13 to 15 March 2013, brought together 49 experts from the Asian region to discuss and debate the necessity, usefulness and relevance of the draft criteria and guidelines for quality OERs. Forty-four participants were from various institutions in India.

POLICIES

Draft Institutional Quality Assurance Policies

Two State Open Universities, YCMOU and VMOU, developed their draft Institutional Quality Assurance Policies.

Institutional OER Policy Template

In collaboration with IGNOU, Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University and the British Council, CEMCA organised an event titled “ICT Leadership in Higher Education” in Hyderabad, India, from 24 to 26 February 2013, which engaged with senior decision-makers in universities to improve their understanding of ICTs and assist development of relevant ICT and eLearning strategies and OER policy. The workshop led to the development of an institutional OER policy template. Thirty-nine people, including 20 senior leaders and Vice-Chancellors of Indian universities and five experts from the U.K., attended the event.

OTHER

Contributions to COL Publications

Dr Sushmita Mitra contributed an invited article to COL’s Journal of Learning for Development (Vol. 1, No. 2, 2014) entitled “Feasibility of Open Schooling in Disturbed Areas: A Case Study of Afghanistan.” Dr Mitra also contributed a chapter, “Becoming a Leader in Open Schooling,” to the book Women and Leadership in Open and Distance Learning and Development, published by COL. To the same publication, Ms Chetna Gala Sinha, founder and President of Mann Deshi Mahila Bank Ltd., contributed a chapter entitled “Helping Other Women Through Non-Formal Education and Community Development.”

Speeches and Presentations

The President and CEO of COL was awarded an honorary doctorate from VMOU, Kota, and delivered the convocation address on 24 August 2012.
On 24 September 2012, the President and CEO of COL participated in a symposium organised by ICRISAT to mark the 40th anniversary of the organisation and gave a presentation titled “Is the Modern ICT the Answer to Extension?”

The President and CEO of COL gave a keynote address titled “Four Decades on ODL: Future Directions” at the International Conference on ICT Culture in Education (ICTCE 2012) on 27 September 2012 in Delhi, India. COL supported the conference through a contribution to CEMCA to fund the participation of staff from institutions in the region.

The President and CEO of COL gave a keynote titled “Emerging Development in ICT-based Learning: Implications for Higher Education” at a national seminar organised by the University of Hyderabad on 19 December 2012.

The President and CEO of COL delivered the Silver Jubilee lecture titled “Scaling Schooling for the Secondary Surge: What Are the Options?” organised by NIOS on 21 December 2012 at the India International Centre.

The President and CEO of COL gave a video presentation titled “Trends in Online Education” at the VMOU Foundation Day in India (23 July 2013).

The President and CEO of COL gave the opening presentation, prepared jointly with Dr Venkataraman Balaji, at a forum titled “Transforming Indian Higher Education through MOOCs” in New Delhi on 9 August 2013.

Dr Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA, delivered a lecture titled “Trends in Open, Distance and eLearning 2013” at VMOU, Kota.

The President and CEO of COL delivered the 19th Professor Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture, gave speeches at the 20th anniversary celebrations of CEMCA and the NIOS regional directors meeting, and met key officials at NCERT, MHRD and MIB from 1 to 3 July 2014 in Delhi.

The President and CEO of COL attended the first convocation of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKSHOU) held on the 27 September 2014, at which she was conferred an honorary doctorate.

The Director of CEMCA delivered a public lecture at the Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKSHOU) and a keynote address at the UGC-sponsored seminar on innovations in higher education at the Parvathaneni Brahmayya Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Vijaywada.
Malaysia has been a consistent and valued COL partner over the years. The eminent Malaysian Tan Sri Dato’ Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan was the President and CEO of COL from 1996 to 2004, and other Malaysians have held leadership roles within the organisation. Open and distance learning (ODL) is popular in Malaysia, with about half of working adults involved in it. Teacher training through ODL is thriving. Malaysia is a regular contributor to COL’s budget and has hosted a number of important COL meetings.

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL’s Work on Malaysia’s MDG Targets**
- Capacity-building, materials development and policy support for sharing OER and promoting ODL are underway

**Open up access to higher and continuing education**
- Promote enculturation of lifelong learning
- Internationalise Malaysian education through online distance education
- Use eLearning to enhance learning at all levels
- Support Learning for Livelihoods, especially in rural regions in Malaysia

**Modules and case studies developed on open educational resources (OER) based eLearning**
- COL’s Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM) implemented at Wawasan Open University (WOU)
- OER Quality Assurance Guidelines and Institutional Policy Template developed

**COL Focal Point:**
- YBhg Dato’ Professor Dr Asma Binti Ismail, Ministry of Education Malaysia

**Notable Mentions:**
- Professor Dato’ Wong Tei Meng, formerly of Wawasan Open University, received an Excellence in Distance Education Award
- Wawasan Open University received an Excellence for Institutional Achievement-Category B Award, as well as an Excellence for Distance Education Award for OER Material
- Professor Dato’ Dr Ansary Ahmed, of Asia eUniversity is an Honorary COL Advisor
- The 8th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF8) will be held in Malaysia in 2016

**Areas of COL’s Work in Malaysia:**
- Higher Education
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- eLearning
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Ministry of Education
- Asia eUniversity
- Open University Malaysia
- Wawasan Open University
- Universiti Sains Malaysia

**CAPACITY**
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference
- Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand
- Institutional workshop on OER-based eLearning
- OER-based eLearning for Course Facilitators
- ICT and Learner Support Training for Tutors
- ICT Leadership in Higher Education

**MATERIALS**
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- Modules and Case Studies on OER-based
- ICT Leadership in Higher Education

**MODELS**
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)

**POLICIES**
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- Institutional OER Policy Template
- OER Quality Assurance Guidelines

**OTHER**

- Speeches and presentations
- Malaysian experts engaged as professional resources

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**LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021**

At the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Malaysia was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Malaysia. The following area was identified:

- Expanding skills and innovation in the use of tools and materials such as MOOCs and OER
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Malaysia

PARTNERSHIPS

Open University Malaysia (OUM) and Wawasan Open University (WOU) Fellowships

CEMCA offered fellowships to middle-level officers of open universities and Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, to visit OUM and WOU in 2012 and 2014. The study tours were undertaken to help understand best practices followed by these ODL institutions in governance, financial management, student support services and quality assurance of ODL.

OER Research through WOU

WOU has been actively involved in promoting open educational resources (OER) and is engaged in research into OER use and in identifying search and retrieval technologies in relation to OER. COL visited WOU in May 2013 to update the OER search algorithm developed by a team led by Mr Ishan Abeyawardena, Senior Lecturer, to finalise a research paper on this topic and to deliver an institutional seminar on massive open online courses (MOOCs).

OUM Scholarships

OUM students received scholarships for Master’s in Instructional Design and Technology (MIDT) including:

► sponsorship of three scholars from Kenya, India and Zambia to complete the two-year Master’s in Instructional Design and Technology offered by OUM, which began in 2013; and

► sponsorship of one scholar in 2014 nominated by the Department of Higher Education and Training, South Africa, to complete the two-year Master’s in Instructional Design and Technology offered by OUM.

CEMCA offers the Best Woman ICT Student award at OUM every year.

Attachment programme for WOU staff

Two staff members of the WOU attended a 8 days attachment programme on instructional design and eLearning at the SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai, India from 2 to 9 September 2013.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people from Malaysia to attend the forum: Mr Ishan Sudeera Abeywardena of Wawasan Open University, Dr Zobaida Akhter of University of Malaya, Dr Anne Althea Christopher of Universiti Utara, Mr Tan Luck Lee of Mara University and Professor Dr. Mohan Menon of WOU.

Memorandum of Understanding for the 8th Pan-Commonwealth Forum

The next Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF8) will be hosted by OUM in 2016.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

The COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Asia) was held in Penang, Malaysia, from 17 to 19 September 2014, co-hosted by the Ministry of Education Malaysia in cooperation with Universiti Sains Malaysia. YBhg Dato’ Professor Dr. Asma Binti Ismail and Professor Dr Jaafar bin Jantan represented Malaysia at the meeting.

CEMCA Advisory Council Meeting

The CEMCA Advisory Council Meeting was held in Penang, Malaysia, on 16 September 2014 to review the work of CEMCA and give it future direction.

International Conference on ICT Culture in Education

COL, through its regional centre the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), supported the Educational Technology and Management Academy (ETMA) Council to host the International Conference on ICT Culture in Education held in Delhi, India, on 27–29 September 2012. Three candidates from Bangladesh and Malaysia attended the conference. Ms Sharifah Rosfashida Bt. Syed Abd. Latif of Open University Malaysia participated.

Support for Open Schools Strategy in India

In September 2012, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, released the National Vocational Educational Qualifications Framework (NVEQF). As the NVEQF document has various levels, in partnership with NIOS, it was decided to focus at the school level (level 4) of NVEQF and develop a strategy that could be applied by all the open schools in India. Thus, a consultative workshop was planned from 19 to 22 June 2013 in Kochi, which brought together 27 stakeholders to discuss and debate why and how learning experiences can be organised for skills training at a distance, including the needed face-to-face exposure to learn motor skills. Professor Dr Mohan Menon, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of WOU, attended the meeting.

UNISA-Cambridge International Conference on Open, Distance and eLearning

COL was a co-sponsor of the UNISA–Cambridge International Conference on Open, Distance and eLearning held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 29 September to 2 October 2013. COL supported five delegates from Malaysia, United Kingdom, Namibia and Nigeria to attend the conference. Dr Hazalina Hashim of OUM presented at the conference.
Regional Symposium on OER
COL/CEMCA attended the Regional Symposium on OER, “An Asian Perspective on Policy and Practices,” organised by WOU; facilitated the pre-conference workshop on “Engines for OER- Based Learning Environments” on 18 September 2012; and made a presentation on “OER Paris Declaration 2012.” COL also supported two delegates in the region to attend the symposium.

COL also participated in the OER-Asia 2nd Regional Symposium, “Open Educational Resources: Beyond Advocacy, Research and Policy,” at WOU, Penang, Malaysia, on 24–27 June 2014. The major focus of the symposium was to go beyond advocacy, research and policy to bring people together to continue building the OER community. CEMCA organized a panel of quality assurance of OER and presented the OER:TIPS guidelines.

VUSSC Transnational Qualifications Framework Meetings
The third VUSSC Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) Management Committee meeting (from 2 to 3 March 2015) and TQF General Meeting (from 4 to 6 March 2015) took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Twenty-four participants from 22 Commonwealth countries participated in the two meetings that were organised in collaboration with OUM, to review and endorse the TQF referencing documents, to develop an online referencing tool for the TQF, and to review and approve the VUSSC course registration process.

CAPACITY
Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference
Eight candidates (four men and four women) from India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were supported to attend the AAOU conference titled “Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge through Open Distance Learning in Changing Societies” held in Chiba, Japan, 16 to 18 October 2012. Ms Karen Khor Ean Teng of WOU attended the conference.

Institutional Capacity-Building Workshop on OER-Based eLearning
CEMCA held an institutional capacity-building workshop on OER-based eLearning from 29 January to 1 February 2013 at WOU, Malaysia, aimed at developing competencies in integrating OER in teaching and learning, and took steps to develop a course on OER-based eLearning. Twenty-seven teachers (20 men and 7 women) from eight ODL institutions in the region, including India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, participated in the workshop. Twenty-one attendees were from Malaysia. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia.

MOOCs and eLearning for Course Facilitators
From 6 to 10 January 2014, CEMCA facilitated a workshop on OER-based eLearning for the prospective facilitators of the upcoming online course at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University in Hyderabad. Seven people from Malaysia participated in the workshop and built their capacity in OER facilitation.

Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (OPNZ)
To support women in higher education, COL sponsored 20 women faculty from higher education institutions in Africa and Asia by providing scholarships to undertake a one-year online certificate course in Designing and Facilitating eLearning (Level 5) of the OPNZ. This qualification is made up of three 20-credit courses and is delivered online through the Online Campus. The following people from Malaysia participated in the programme: Ms Sharifah Rosfashida Bt. Syed Abd. Latif, OUM; and Ms Jasmine S. Emmanuel, WOU.

As of June 2014, another nine women in higher education from eight different countries, including Malaysia, were sponsored to complete the Open OPNZ programme in designing and facilitating online learning/eLearning.

ICT and Learner Support Training for Tutors
COL supported a project to develop ICT supported tutor skills and learner support skills training for tutors of OUM by training 30 master tutors in June 2013 and 24 tutors in 2014. Another tutor-training workshop is planned for 2015. The project envisages training about 3,000 tutors over a three- year period, through a cascading approach.

CEMCA supported WOU on launching of OER-based eLearning Programme as a MOOC and organised a workshop for the online facilitators from 14 to 16 October 2014 at WOU Penang, Malaysia. The workshop was attended by 22 participants, 19 were from WOU’s academic Schools, Library and the Educational Technology & Publishing (ETP) unit, and three from DISTED College and Universiti Sains Malaysia. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Monash University in Australia.
MATERIALS

Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes

The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes have been offered by WOU since 2006. Initially launched in 2002, the Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes were completely updated in 2013, with 12 courses revised and 10 courses rewritten. One new elective on Business Ethics was added, taking the total number of courses available to 23. Eleven partner institutions are currently offering the CEMBA/CEMPA programme. To date, 24,299 students have enrolled, 11,515 of whom have graduated. For the current triennium, 4,961 are reported to be enrolled, and thus far, 3,814 have graduated. COL continues to receive updates on enrolment and graduation figures from partner institutions. WOU in 2012-2014 has had an enrolment of 417 students, and to date more than 265 students have graduated from the programmes. WOU revised the 12 CEMBA/CEMPA courses assigned to it for revision and was sent the newly revised courses in the programme.

Modules and Case Studies on OER-Based eLearning for Online Course

CEMCA held a workshop on institutional capacity-building for OER-based eLearning from 9 to 14 June 2013 at WOU, Malaysia as a follow-up to a previous workshop. Five modules and four case studies on OER-based eLearning were finalised and are ready for editing and deployment online. The workshop was attended by 17 participants, and was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia. WOU launched a MOOC on OER-based eLearning using these materials.

MODELS

COL’s Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)

COL implemented the COL-RIM at WOU, Penang, Malaysia. The university achieved a “verified” status on the basis of the self-review and final verification conducted. Monitoring and Evaluation of the COL-RIM implementation at WOU took place from 2 to 3 June 2014.

OER Quality Assurance Guidelines

CEMCA developed quality guidelines for OER through several stakeholder consultations. The objective is to assist users of OER to assess quality from a lens devised by them using the criteria in the guidelines. A regional consultation workshop, hosted by Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Hyderabad from 13 to 15 March 2013, brought together 49 experts from the Asian region to discuss and debate the necessity, usefulness and relevance of the draft criteria and guidelines for quality OERs. Attending the meeting were Professor Dr Abtar Kaur, Faculty of Education and Languages of the Open University Malaysia; Tan Sri Dato’ Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan, Honorary Director, Institute for Research and Innovation; and Professor Dr Mohan B. Menon, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of WOU. The guidelines are now available as OER: TIPS framework for quality assurance of OER.

POLICIES

Institutional OER Policy Template

In collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University, Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University and the British Council, CEMCA organised an event titled “ICT Leadership in Higher Education” in Hyderabad, India, from 24 to 26 February 2013, which engaged with senior decision-makers in universities to improve their understanding of ICTs and assist development of relevant ICT and eLearning strategies and OER policy. The workshop led to the development of an institutional OER policy template. Professor Dr John Arul Phillips, Dean, School of Education and Cognitive Science of the Asia e University, Malaysia, also participated in the event.

OTHER

Speeches and Presentations

On 20 September 2012, the President and CEO of COL delivered a keynote address titled “Ten Years of OER: Enlarging the Circle?” at the Regional Symposium on OER, “An Asian Perspective on Policy and Practices,” organised by WOU in Penang, Malaysia.

At the 12th International Conference on Information (ICI12), with the theme of “Learning Unlimited,” held in Kuala Lumpur from 12 to 13 December 2012, the President and CEO of COL delivered a keynote titled “Democratising Higher Education through OER: From Commitment to Action.”

The President and CEO of COL gave a presentation titled “To MOOC or Not to MOOC: That Is the Question,” in the context of the Malaysian Minister’s inauguration of MOOCs in the country. The lecture was held at WOU in September 2014.

Contributions to COL Publications

Professor Johan Arul Phillips and Professor Dato’ Dr Ansary Ahmed contributed to the publication ICT Leadership in Higher Education.
Maldives is an island nation in the Indian Ocean with a population of 345,000 dispersed across a number of islands and atolls. This geography presents distinct development challenges, which are partially addressed through the expansion of open and distance learning (ODL). While literacy levels are high and the education system is well developed, the country seeks to make more effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) and to expand learning opportunities for people located in remote areas. Maldives is a regular contributor to COL’s budget.

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications
- Address the special needs of small island developing states

COL’s Work on Maldives’ MDG Targets
- VUSSC is committed to the collaborative development of open content resources for education, training and capacity-building, and the use of ICTs to broaden access to education

Agreed Priorities
- Conduct workshops on transforming education using ICT
- Create a network where mobile technology is used to reach the outer atolls
- Create mobile content, especially audio materials with interactivity
- Expand teacher training and capacity-building with special emphasis on multi-grade teaching
- Strengthen and enhance the resources and materials for adult and community education

Outcomes Achieved by COL
- Eleven new VUSSC courses made available
- Eleven ODL modules developed for three Diploma Programmes at the National Institute of Education
- Maldives National Qualifications Framework has been referenced against the Transnational Qualifications Framework
- Ongoing support for institutional and national policy development on ICT in Education and ODL

Quick Notes
- COL Focal Points:
  - Ms Aminath Namza, Ministry of Education
  - Mr Ramiz Ali, Maldives National University
- Notable Mention:
  - Ms Aminath Namza represents Maldives on the CEMCA Advisory Council
- Areas of COL’s Work in Maldives:
  - Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
  - Teacher Education
  - Healthy Communities
HIGHLIGHTS

COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Ministry of Education
► Maldives Broadcasting Commission (MBC)
► Maldives Villa College
► Maldives National University
► Maldives Qualification Authority
► National Institute of Education (NIE)

CAPACITY

Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Support to attend the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2013 Conference
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Support to attend the “Radio for Equitable Education to All” seminar

MATERIALS

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► ODL Curriculum Materials Development

MODELS

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► Transnational Qualifications Framework

POLICIES

A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► Institutional Education and ICT Policy Review
► Support for National ODL Policy Development
► National Consultation on Community Broadcasting Policy for non-formal learning

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Points for Maldives were asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Maldives. The following areas were identified:

► Finalising of an ICT Policy in Education
► Strengthening of the ICT online infrastructure
► Ensuring quality assurance of programmes accredited by Maldives Qualification Authority (MQA)
► Building of capacity for integrating ICT in classroom teaching
► Expansion of the use of ICT in work processes and communication at all levels of administration to create a management system that is more responsive and flexible
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Maldives

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Maldives is a member of VUSSC.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored Mr Ramiz Ali from the National University of Maldives to attend the forum.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Ms Aminath Namza represented Maldives at the meeting.

CEMCA Advisory Council Meeting

Maldives is represented in the Advisory Council of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) under the Focal Point category, and Ms. Aminath Namza attended the meetings.

VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting

The VUSSC Interlocutors meet every three years to review developments, achievements and lessons learned. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting coincides with the Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF). PCF7 was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 6 December 2013. At this meeting, Interlocutors participated in a half-day impact evaluation workshop with COL’s impact evaluators, Dr Stephen Murgatroyd and Ms Janet Tully. Highlights of the Interlocutors Meeting included a discussion of the post-MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), current VUSSC resources, and the importance of gender in the VUSSC initiative. At the close of the meeting, the following countries expressed interest in offering VUSSC courses: Barbados, Vanuatu, Namibia, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, Maldives, Grenada and Dominica. Mr Ramiz Ali, Maldives National University (MNU), attended the meeting.

MNU Community Radio

CEMCA visited the MNU’s Faculty of Arts on 4 February 2015 and discussed with the Dean and other faculty members how the university can broadcast learning resources through community radio. The university is currently preparing a proposal for a community radio at MNU.

CAPACITY

Support to Attend “Radio for Equitable Education to All” Seminar

COL supported four experts from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to attend a seminar titled “Radio for Equitable Education to All,” hosted by the Distance Education Programme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi from 27 to 29 December 2012. Professor Ahmed Ali Didi of the Maldives participated in the conference.

Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC

A workshop was organised in Male, Maldives from 3 to 7 March 2013 specifically for the Asia Pacific region to build the capacity of implementers in designing and implementing the VUSSC M&E framework. It was supported by the Ministry of Education and the Maldives Villa College. Dr Ali Fawaz Shareef, Director for Research and Innovation of Villa College, attended the meeting.

Support to Attend the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2013 Conference

COL supported six people from Brunei, India and the Maldives to attend the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) 2013 conference titled “Has External QA Made an Impact? Looking Back at the Decade of Quality Assurance,” held in Taipei, Taiwan, 7 to 8 April 2013. Mrs Aminath Asra of the Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) and Ms Aishath Mohamed Didi of Villa College participated in the conference.

MATERIALS

New VUSSC Courses

During 2013–2014, 11 VUSSC courses were completed: Master’s in Educational Leadership, Bachelor’s in Business and Entrepreneurship, Diploma in Agriculture, Linux for IT Managers, Facilitating Online Instruction, and Sustainable Tourism. Courses are available to all VUSSC member states on the VUSSC website. Approximately 49,000 people have been reached or trained, including senior officials, educators and over 1,300 learners enrolled in VUSSC-developed courses and programmes.

VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Senior officials of the small states identified a need to develop a teacher education programme, especially at the postgraduate level, to help address the acute shortage of teachers in most of the small states and the lack of training programmes in most teacher training institutions. COL therefore facilitated
a workshop, in collaboration with the National University of Samoa, to develop a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). It ran from 17 June to 3 July 2013 in Samoa, with 28 participants from 14 countries. Much of the course was developed using OER. Mr Mohamed Abdul Latheef, School Management and Teacher Education – Modules of Tertiary Level, attended the workshop.

At the PGDE workshop, COL also introduced the concept of “classroom without walls.” Using a tablet/laptop, a wireless router and a battery pack, teachers can create an interactive, wireless tablet/laptop computing environment that is completely independent of the Internet or electricity. Learners can interact with content hosted on the server’s Moodle, WordPress or Canvas applications using their own tablets/laptops. Participants from Papua New Guinea, Maldives and Dominica expressed interest in purchasing a kit for testing purposes.

**ODL Curriculum Material Development Workshop**

From 12 to 22 January 2014, COL organised an ODL Curriculum Material Development Workshop at National Institute of Education (NIE) in Male and trained 19 institute staff. As a result, 11 modules were developed for three Diploma Programmes at NIE and another seven are in progress. In September 2014, COL met with staff of NIE to follow up on development of modules and to discuss follow-up activities.

**MODELS**

**Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF)**

The Maldives National Qualifications Framework has been referenced against the TQF.

**POLICIES**

**Institutional Education and ICT Policy Review**

COL is providing ongoing review of the current education and ICT policies of the MNU and supporting the construction of the university’s ODL policy. The ODL Policy Framework for the MNU was finalised in August 2014 with 11 staff from MNU Centre for Open Learning.

**Support for National ODL Policy Development**

The Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Maldives, has made a formal request for COL support to develop the National ODL policy.

**National Consultation on Community Media**

A National Consultation on Community Media was organised by CEMCA on 5 February 2015 in collaboration with the Maldives Broadcasting Commission (MBC) in Male’, Maldives. A total of 27 participants attended the consultation.
As Pakistan continues to strive for universal basic primary education, it faces the related challenge of increasing access to learning opportunities at the secondary and tertiary levels. Other challenges include building capacity in the design and delivery of open and distance learning (ODL) and expanding the use of digital technology to enhance learning for university students. Pakistan is a regular contributor to COL’s budget.

Provide professional development and development of open educational resources (OER) for open schooling
Support the Virtual Education Project Pakistan (VEPP) by arranging lectures in Higher Education
Increase training of trainers in both curriculum and instructional design for higher education (formal and non-formal)
Support transitions to dual mode: formal and ODL
Build capacity to develop eLearning material and OER

Institutional capacity-building in OER and quality guidelines for OER developed
Support for the Open School at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) launched in 2013

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
► Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

COL's Work on Pakistan’s MDG Targets
► Policy, training and materials development in OER, information and communication technologies (ICTs), ODL and eLearning is underway

COL Board:
► Professor Dr Atta-ur-Rahman, FRS
   Chief Patron, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Pakistan, is the appointed Regional Representative for Asia on COL’s Board of Governors and the Chair of the Audit Committee

COL Focal Point:
► Professor Dr Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Higher Education Commission

Areas of COL’s Work in Pakistan:
► Open Schooling
► Higher Education
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

- Higher Education Commission
- Ministry of Advanced Education
- Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)
- Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU)
- The British Council Pakistan
- Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU)

**CAPACITY**

Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

- Support to Attend the Regional Symposium on OER
- Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference
- Support to Attend the “Radio for Equitable Education to All” seminar
- Gender Mainstreaming in Open Schools
- Leadership Development for Women Academics
- Institutional Capacity-Building Workshops on OER-Based eLearning

**MATERIALS**

Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

- The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes
- OER-based eLearning Programme for professional development of Higher Education Teachers

**MODELS**

A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

- Open Schooling model
- COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)

**POLICIES**

A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

- Quality Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER)

**OTHER**

- Speeches and presentations

**LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021**

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL identified relevant national priorities for Pakistan from the Government of Pakistan’s online portal including:

- Establishment of uniformity and standardisation of the educational system (education as a national, public function) and achieving of cohesion in quality

- Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (OPNZ)
- Quality Assurance workshop
- COMOSA Planning and Theory of Change
- Vice-Chancellors’ study tour
- The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes
- OER-based eLearning Programme for professional development of Higher Education Teachers
- Open Schooling model
- COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)
- Quality Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Speeches and presentations

- Support for business, commerce and technology for a globalised world
- Ongoing revision of the National Education Plan
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Pakistan

PARTNERSHIPS

Commonwealth Open Schools Association (COMOSA)
Twenty-two partners signed the COMOSA constitution, including Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU).

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)
COL sponsored the following people to attend the forum: Irshad Hussain of the International Islamic University, Zahid Majeed of AIOU, and Muhammed Safdar of the International Islamic University of Islamabad.

CAPACITY

Support to Attend the Regional Symposium on OER
In September 2012, COL supported Professor Dr Nazir Ahmed Sangi, Vice-Chancellor of AIOU, to attend the Regional Symposium on OER, “An Asian Perspective on Policy and Practices,” in Penang, Malaysia.

Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference
Eight candidates (four men and four women) from India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were supported to attend the AAOU conference titled “Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge Through Open Distance Learning in Changing Societies” held in Chiba, Japan, from 16 to 18 October 2012. Muhammed Zaheer of the Virtual University of Pakistan attended the conference.

Support for “Radio for Equitable Education to All” Seminar
COL supported four experts from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to attend a seminar titled “Radio for Equitable Education to All,” hosted by the Distance Education Programme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi from 27 to 29 December 2012. Professor Muhammad Qasim of Pakistan participated in the conference.

Gender Mainstreaming in Open Schools
To ensure that Open Schools mainstream gender in their activities, COL organised a COMOSA workshop from 13 to 17 March 2013 in Delhi to discuss the Gender Equality Guidelines developed by a COL consultant. Attending the workshop were 19 representatives from Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Canada, India, Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and United Kingdom.

Leadership Development for Women Academics
COL, in collaboration with the Open University of Sri Lanka, organised a regional workshop from 18 to 20 March 2013 on leadership development for 24 senior women academics in South Asia. Facilitators of the workshop were Professor Uma Coomaraswamy and Professor Madhulika Kaushik, Dr Naveed Sultana, Director, Quality Assurance, and Dr Nomana Anjum, Director, Department of Home and Health Sciences, both of AIOU, participated in the workshop.

Institutional Capacity-Building Workshops on OER-Based eLearning
From 29 to 31 January and 01 February 2013 at Wawasan Open University, Malaysia, aimed at developing competencies in integrating OER in teaching and learning, and took steps to develop a course on OER-based eLearning. Twenty-seven teachers (20 men and 7 women) from eight ODL institutions in the region, including India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, participated in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia. Dr Naveed Sultana, Associate Professor, Department of Secondary Teacher Education, and Dr Mohammad Daud, Assistant Professor/In charge, Department of Computer Sciences, both of AIOU, attended the meeting.

From 6 to 9 January 2014, CEMCA facilitated a workshop on OER-based eLearning for the prospective facilitators of an upcoming online course at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University in Hyderabad. Mr Muhammad Ishaque Fani of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan participated in the workshop and built his capacity in OER-based eLearning facilitation.

Scholarships to the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (OPNZ)
To support women in higher education, COL sponsored 20 women faculty from higher education institutions in Africa and Asia by providing scholarships to undertake a one-year online certificate course in Designing and Facilitating eLearning (Level 5) of the OPNZ. This qualification is made up of three 20-credit courses and is delivered online through the Online Campus. Participating from Pakistan was Dr Naveed Sultana of AIOU.

As of June 2014, another nine women in higher education from eight different countries, including Pakistan, were sponsored to complete the Open OPNZ programme in designing and facilitating online learning/eLearning.

Quality Assurance Workshop
COL organised a Quality Assurance workshop in New Delhi from 8 to 12 September 2014. Zahida Sajjad Qazi of AIOU participated in the workshop.
COMOSA Planning Meeting and Theory of Change Workshops
Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA planning meeting as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014. Tanzila Nabeel of AIOU participated in the meeting and workshops.

Vice-Chancellor Study Tour
COL collaborated with the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and the British Council on facilitating a leadership study tour to British Columbia, Canada, for Vice-Chancellors from Pakistan. The tour was held from 27 April to 6 May 2015 and involved universities and other higher education institutions, including the Ministry of Advanced Education.

MATERIALS
Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes
The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes have been offered by AIOU in Pakistan since their inception in 2002. Launched in 2002, the Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes were completely updated in 2013, with 12 courses revised and 10 courses rewritten. One new elective on Business Ethics was added, taking the total number of courses available to 23. Eleven partner institutions are currently offering the CEMBA/CEMPA programme. To date, 24,299 students have enrolled, 11,515 of whom have graduated. For the current triennium, 4,961 are reported to be enrolled, and thus far, 3,814 have graduated. AIOU in 2012–2014 had an enrolment of 1,463 students and to date 7,834 students have graduated. COL continues to receive updates on enrolment and graduation figures from partner institutions.

During a visit to Pakistan in April 2013, COL’s President and CEO met with alumni of the CEMBA/CEMPA programme.

MODELS
Open Schooling Model: Open School at AIOU
COL attended meetings in July 2012 with the Vice-Chancellor and faculty members of AIOU and visited Village Sajawal outside Thawa and the Umerkot Centre in Sindh and gathered information needed in planning the establishment and monitoring of an open school.

In October 2012, AIOU signed an agreement with COL for developing curriculum for its Open Schooling System that will provide education at primary and elementary levels to drop-out students throughout the country. Under the agreement, COL provides assistance for the development of curriculum/content of the reading materials provided to the students.

COL visited Pakistan from 25 to 26 March 2013 to monitor the progress made on the development of 14 subjects and to continue discussions regarding learner support for a new open school. Meetings were held with the Vice-Chancellor and various AIOU faculty members. COL visited two centres in Bheen and Mangwal, as well as the AIOU Regional Centre of Chakwal.

During a visit to Pakistan in April 2013, COL’s President and CEO formally launched the Open School at AIOU.

COL’s Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)
During a visit to Pakistan in April 2013, the COL President and Professor Nazir Sangi, Vice-Chancellor of AIOU, signed the COL-RIM Memorandum of Understanding. The COL President also conducted an induction session at AIOU for the COL-RIM team, headed by Dr Nomana Anjum. The COL-RIM implementation at AIOU was completed in June 2013.

The COL-RIM verification process was also completed for Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU, Pakistan) in December 2013. These activities were supported by COL and funded by COMSEC.

POLICIES
Quality Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER)
CEMCA is engaged in developing quality guidelines for OER. The objective is to assist users of OER to assess quality from a lens devised by them using the criteria in the guidelines. A regional consultation workshop, hosted by Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Hyderabad from 13 to 15 March 2013, brought together 49 experts from the Asian region to discuss and debate the necessity, usefulness and relevance of the draft criteria and guidelines for quality OERs. Professor Nabi Bux Jumani, Department of Education of the International Islamic University in Islamabad, attended the meeting.

OTHER
Speeches and Presentations
The President and CEO of COL gave a speech titled “Opening Up to Open Education Resources” at the AIOU on 2 April 2013.

The President and CEO of COL gave a speech on COL-RIM at AIOU on 4 April 2013.
SINGAPORE

**CONTEXT**

An Asian nation of about 5.4 million people, Singapore possesses a wealth of education resources. Singapore’s institutions and professionals contribute to the advancement of open and distance learning (ODL) and the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for education in the region.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Expand pre-service teacher training at the Singapore National Institute of Education (NIE) and opportunities for continual development for teachers to build up their capabilities as teaching professionals
- Purposefully integrate ICT into all types of lessons to enhance learning experience

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Capacity-building for the teacher-educators programme, “Using Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Pedagogical Development,” is underway as a result of collaboration with the Technical Cooperation Directorate (TCD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and the Singapore NIE

**COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS**

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**

- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications

**COL’s Work on Singapore’s MDG Targets**

- COL’s resources and materials in areas such as ODL and ICTs are being made available for member country use to help them achieve their development objectives

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**

- Ms Cindy Eu, Ministry of Education

**Areas of COL’s Work in Singapore:**

- Teacher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
COL has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five. However, for ease of reference, activities have been classified in only one of the five categories.

PARTNERSHIPS
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Ministry of Education
► Technical Cooperation Directorate (TCD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
► Singapore National Institute of Education (NIE)

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021
In the lead up-to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL identified relevant national priorities for Singapore based on the Ministry of Education’s Work Plan Seminar 2014. The following areas were identified:

► Provision of the new online resource for teachers and students, the Student Learning Space, to be implemented in all primary and secondary schools, junior colleges, and centralised institute progressively, starting in 2016

► Development of more mentorship for teachers
► Support for learning communities

CAPACITY
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Training workshop for teacher-educators programme
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Singapore

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Singapore NIE, and the Institute of Technical Education: VUSSC

In March 2015, COL visited Singapore to meet with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Institute of Education and the Institute of Technical Education in order to explore possible funding of VUSSC activities in Singapore. COL is working with NIE to write a funding proposal for future VUSSC activities.

Technical Cooperation Directorate (TCD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Singapore NIE: Teacher Education

COL is collaborating with the TCD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and the Singapore NIE in mounting capacity-building for the teacher-educators programme “Using Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Pedagogical Development,” which began with a workshop in Singapore NIE, in May 2015. This training programme is a step towards incorporating teacher education into the change strategies to deal with challenges facing education in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA).

**CAPACITY**

Training Workshop for Teacher-Educators Programme

COL facilitated a training session from 4 to 8 May, 2015 in Singapore as part of the capacity-building for the teacher-educators programme “Using Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Pedagogical Development” currently being undertaken in partnership with TCD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and the Singapore NIE. The training workshop encouraged members from each institution to come up with Change Projects that will help them initiate or contribute to change in their institutions.
SRI LANKA

An island nation of about 20.5 million people located off the southern coast of India, Sri Lanka has high literacy rates and a strong network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Sri Lanka has contributed to COL's budget in the past.

National MDG Targets Addressed by COL
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information and communications
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

COL's Work on Sri Lanka's MDG Targets
- Policy, training and materials development in open educational resources (OER), information and communication technologies (ICTs), ODL and eLearning is underway
- The Lifelong Learning for Farmers model aims to empower women and improve the livelihoods and food security of participants

Outcomes Achieved by COL
- National ODL Policy developed
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers programme scaled up
- Five online courses from five key professional development programmes for teachers and teacher educators developed

Quick Notes
COL Focal Point:
- Mr S.U. Wijerathne, Ministry of Education

Areas of COL's Work in Sri Lanka:
- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers
- Healthy Communities

Agreed Priorities
- Support initiatives in teacher education, quality assurance, open and distance learning (ODL) and higher education
- Promote rural community development
- Promote professional development

Context
Policy, training and materials development in open educational resources (OER), information and communication technologies (ICTs), ODL and eLearning is underway
The Lifelong Learning for Farmers model aims to empower women and improve the livelihoods and food security of participants

Quick Notes
COL Focal Point:
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Areas of COL's Work in Sri Lanka:
- Open Schooling
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PARTNERSHIPS
COL partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth.

► Ministry of Education
► Ministry of Higher Education
► Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development
► Ministry of Mass Media
► Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL)
► National Science Foundation (NSF)
► Dialog
► National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority
► National Institute of Education
► University of Jaffna
► University Grants Commission
► Department of Export Agriculture
► The Regional Development Bank
► The University of Ruhuna
► MOBITEL
► Ericsson Pvt. Ltd.
► Sri Lanka Development Journalists’ Forum (SDJF)
► University of Peradeniya

CAPACITY
Capacity development pervades all COL activities and COL focuses primarily on human resource development.

► Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference
► Support to Attend the “Radio for Equitable Education to All” seminar
► Support to attend Community Radio events
► Creation and Use of OER in Higher Education workshop
► Gender Mainstreaming in Open Schools
► Leadership Development for Women Academics
► Institutional Capacity-Building workshops on OER-Based eLearning
► Developing an Online TVET Teacher Training
► Capacity-Building on Web Radio
► ICT Leadership workshop
► Evaluation workshop on the Integration of ICT and OER in Online Education Courses
► Quality Assurance workshop
► COMOSA Planning Meeting and Theory of Change workshop
► Integration of ICT and OER into Teacher Education Programmes
► Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

MATERIALS
Materials refer to learning and teaching resources including course materials, toolkits and frameworks. Materials are produced through collaboration with partners, or by partners themselves with COL support.

► Online Professional Development Courses
► OER books
► Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA
► OER-based eLearning programme

MODELS
A model is a coherent set of structures and processes that has been shown to work in more than one context to achieve specific results. Models can range from broad approaches to more specific instruments.

► COL Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)
► Lifelong Learning for Farmers model

POLICIES
A policy is a high-level statement of ambition that specifies the outcomes to be achieved and that guides decision-making through a defined course of action. COL supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments.

► Quality Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER)
► National ODL Policy
► National Policy on Community Radio
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL's Focal Point for Sri Lanka was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Sri Lanka. The following areas were identified:

- Increasing of compulsory education age up to 16 years (grade 11) from age 14 (grade 9)
- Development of full-fledged 1,000 secondary schools island-wide
- Establishment of child-friendly feeder primary school networks
- National policy development of Early Childhood Education (ECE) and care and standardisation of pre-school centres and teachers qualifications
- Improving of the content and quality of textbooks
- Upgrading of primary and secondary curriculum
- Improving of national testing and evaluation systems
- Implementation of programmes on social cohesion and peace education
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Sri Lanka

PARTNERSHIPS

Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development: TVET Partnership

COL has developed a partnership with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, with the goal of developing eLearning materials to contribute to the expansion of access to TVET. From 5 to 8 February 2013, COL had a series of meetings with key ministry officials and stakeholder institutions. COL met with officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission to discuss their proposal and explore possibilities for collaboration on OER eLearning materials for skills training. A meeting was held with the Deputy Director of Training at the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) to discuss the possibility for collaboration on distance and eLearning. The Institute for Engineering Technology and the Apprenticeship Training Institute were also visited. COL also visited the University of Vocational Technology to discuss the possibility for collaboration on distance and eLearning for both in-service and pre-service TVET teacher training.

Quality Review of the Distance Apprenticeship Programme at the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA)

In June 2013, Dr Gayathri Jayatilleke from the Open University of Sri Lanka carried out a quality review of the distance apprenticeship programme at NAITA in Sri Lanka. Her report makes recommendations to improve and strengthen the quality of the programme. NAITA has substantially strengthened its team of writers and course developers for the distance apprenticeship programme.

Support for Quality Science Education in Sri Lanka

In January 2014, COL met with various stakeholders, including OUSL, National Academy of Science of Sri Lanka (NASSL), Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and National Science Foundation (NSF) to discuss the needs of improving the quality of science education in Sri Lanka.

Partnership Development with Dialog

On 30 January 2014, COL met with Mr Sameera of Dialog (a telecom company, which also runs the educational TV channel NenasaTV) regarding the request from the Ministry of Education to supply video programmes for the channel. A meeting between Dialog and OUSL was facilitated.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to attend the forum: Mr Praneeth Bandara Abyasinghe, Dr Shironica Karunayakya, Dr Sasikala Kugamoorthy and Dr Prasad Senadheera, all of OUSL.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mr S.U. Wijerathne represented Sri Lanka at the meeting.

CAPACITY

Support to Attend the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference

Eight candidates (four men and four women) from India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were supported to attend the AAOU conference titled “Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge Through Open Distance Learning in Changing Societies” held in Chiba, Japan, from 16 to 18 October 2012. Dr Senadheera Prasad of OUSL attended the conference.

Support for “Radio for Equitable Education to All” Seminar

COL supported four experts from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to attend a seminar titled “Radio for Equitable Education to All,” hosted by the Distance Education Programme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi from 27 to 29 December 2012. Professor Vijitha Nanayakkara of Sri Lanka participated in the conference.

Creation and Use of OER in Higher Education Workshop

At the request of the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka and COL, in collaboration with the Open University of Sri Lanka, organised a workshop on the creation and use of open educational resources (OER) in higher education. It ran from 13 to 14 March 2013 for 37 participants from 14 state universities, comprising the entire public higher education system in the country. Participants from the University of Jaffna set up a Google group for all workshop participants to begin collaborating on OER development and sharing their experiences.

Gender Mainstreaming in Open Schools

To ensure that open schools mainstream gender in their activities, COL organised a COMOSA workshop from 13 to 17 March 2013 in Delhi to discuss the Gender Equality Guidelines developed by a COL consultant. Attending the workshop were 19 representatives from Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Canada, India, Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and United Kingdom.
Developing an Online TVET Teacher Training Programme

COL consultant Professor Abtar Kaur Darsha Singh facilitated a workshop for 12 UNIVOTEC Senior Lecturers from 27 to 31 January 2014 to provide UNIVOTEC with the expertise to develop an online TVET teacher training programme. From January to March 2015, Dr Shironica Karunanayaka continued the capacity-building with this team, with additional workshop sessions and remote support for materials development. The team is developing an online National Diploma in Technical Teacher Education. This course is intended to expand access to TVET teacher training at UNIVOTEC.

ICT Leadership Workshop

On 6–7 June 2014, seven Vice-Chancellors of Sri Lanka and six senior leaders from India and Bangladesh attended the ICT leadership workshop organised by CEMCA and OUSL at Kandy. Instrumental in the workshop were Mr S.B. Dissanayake, Minister for Higher Education; Mr S.U. Wijerathne, Focal Point (COL); Professor Gunapala Nanayakkara, Director General, NIE; Professor Uma Coomaraswamy; and Professor Ranjith Senaratne, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission.

Evaluation Workshop on the Integration of ICT and OER in Online Education Courses

From 1 to 9 June 2014, COL held an evaluation workshop on the integration of ICT and OER in OUSL online education courses.

Quality Assurance Workshop

COL organised a Quality Assurance workshop in New Delhi from 8 to 12 September 2014. Rasika Balasuriya and S. Dunasingh, both of NIE, participated in the workshop.

Commonwealth Open Schools Association (COMOSA) Planning Meeting and Theory of Change Workshops

Bangladesh Open University, in collaboration with COL, hosted a COMOSA planning meeting as well as Theory of Change workshops in Dhaka from 30 September to 3 October 2014. Bellanage Sanath Pujitha of NIE participated in the meeting and workshops.

Integration of ICT and OER into Teacher Education Programmes

A capacity-building workshop on the integration of ICT and OER into the curricula of teacher education programmes was held at OUSL. Thirty-seven academic staff members were trained.

Leadership Development for Women Academics Regional Workshop

COL, in collaboration with OUSL, organised a regional workshop from 18 to 20 March 2013 on leadership development for 24 senior women academics in South Asia. Facilitators of the workshop were Professor Uma Coomaraswamy and Professor Madhulika Kaushik. Eighteen of the participants were from various universities in Sri Lanka.

Institutional Capacity-Building Workshops on OER-Based eLearning

CEMCA held an institutional capacity-building workshop on OER-based eLearning from 29 January to 1 February 2013 at Wawasan Open University, Malaysia, aimed at developing competencies in integrating OER in teaching and learning, and took steps to develop a course on OER-based eLearning. Twenty-seven teachers from eight ODL institutions in the region, including from Sri Lanka, participated in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia. Dr Shironica Priyanthi Karunanayaka of the Open University of Sri Lanka attended the workshop.

CEMCA held the second workshop on institutional capacity-building for OER-based eLearning from 9 to 14 June 2013 at WOU, Malaysia. Five modules and four case studies on OER-based eLearning were finalised for editing and deployment online. The workshop was attended by 17 participants, including attendees from India and Sri Lanka. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Charles Sturt University in Australia.

CEMCA supporting OUSL on launching of OER-based eLearning Programme on institutional capacity-building for OER-based eLearning in which organized a training workshop for the online facilitators from 16 to 19 December 2014 at OUSL, Sri Lanka. Five modules on OER-based eLearning were used in the training. The workshop was attended by 40 academic staff participated. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Som Naidu of Monash University in Australia.

From 6 to 9 January 2014, CEMCA facilitated a workshop on OER-based eLearning for the prospective facilitators of the upcoming online course at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University in Hyderabad. Dr Shironica Karunanayaka, J.C.N. Rajendra and Hemali Uditha W. Rutnayake from OUSL participated in the workshop and built their capacity in OER facilitation.

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Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Four regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners as part of the Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate, which will result in new CLP design and delivery.


The 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course was run in 2014. In April to June 2014, three participants from Sri Lanka received training.

The 5-week “Communication Channels and Media Forms” e-course was run in 2014. In August 2014, two participants (one woman and one man) from Sri Lanka received training resulting in completed CLP plans.

The 6-week Participatory Learning Design (blended) e-course was run in 2014. In September to October 2014, one participant (a man) from Sri Lanka received training, which resulted in a completed CLP design document.

The 6-week Scriptwriting and Episode Production (blended) e-course is being run in 2014/2015.

The 5-week Sustainability and Sponsorship e-course is being run in 2015.

Web Radio Workshop

CEMCA, in collaboration with Sri Lanka Development Journalists’ Forum (SDJF) and Post-Graduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) at the University of Peradeniya, Kandy, organised a national workshop on Web Radio from 9 to 11 February 2015. Twenty participants attended this hands-on workshop, representing different universities, agriculture departments such as the University of Colombo, University of Kelaniya, Eastern University, University of Ruhuna, University of Peradeniya, Department of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka, and Saru Community Radio.

MATERIALS

Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA Programmes

Initially launched in 2002, the Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes were completely updated in 2013, with 12 courses revised and 10 courses rewritten. One new elective on Business Ethics was added, taking the total number of courses available to 23. Eleven partner institutions are currently offering the CEMBA/CEMPA programme. To date, 24,299 students have enrolled, 11,515 of whom have graduated. For the current triennium, 4,961 are reported to be enrolled, and thus far, 3,814 have graduated.

The Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programmes have been offered by the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) since their inception in 2002. COL continues to receive updates on enrolment and graduation figures from partner institutions. In 2012–2014, OUSL had an enrolment of 57 students, and since 2002 157 students have graduated from the programme.

Online Professional Development Courses

Five online courses from five key professional development programmes for teachers and teacher-educators at OUSL were developed.

OER Book

An OER book about the experiences of academics of the Faculty of Education at OUSL during the training and implementation of the OER Project was launched on 17 December 2014. The book, Integrating OER in Educational Practice: Practitioner Stories, was also released as an OER by OUSL.

MODELS

COL’s Review and Improvement Model (COL-RIM)

The COL-RIM verification process was completed for University of Jaffna (UoJ) in March 2014. These activities were supported by COL and funded by COMSEC.

Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) Model

OUSL built the capacity of 180 extension officers of the Department of Export Agriculture in L3F. According to OUSL, there was a significant expansion of the extent of cultivation and the number of farmers involved in ginger and turmeric cultivation under the L3F programme in one village in the Kandy district. While ginger and turmeric were cultivated in less than 2 acres in 2010, at present more than 70 acres are under cultivation. Similarly, the number of farmers who have been growing ginger and turmeric rose from 9 during 2010 to 150 during 2012/2013. In addition, the project integrated other crops such as vanilla and orchids, and this resulted in reaching 300 village households. More than 60% of the participants are women. The project activity was expanded to two more villages adjacent to the Wathurakumbura. The Regional Development Bank has disbursed nearly Rs 1.7 million to the farmers as soft loan
facility to expand the cultivation. This was the first time that the bank provided a loan for ginger and turmeric cultivation in the area. The repayment of the loan at the end of the cultivation season was 100%.

**POLICIES**

**Quality Guidelines for OER**

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) is engaged in developing quality guidelines for OER. The objective is to assist users of OER to assess quality from a lens devised by them using the criteria in the guidelines. A regional consultation workshop, hosted by Maulana Azad National Urdu University in Hyderabad 13 to 15 March 2013, brought together 49 experts from the Asian region to discuss and debate the necessity, usefulness, and relevance of the draft criteria and guidelines for quality OERs. Dr Vijitha Nanayakkara, Vice-Chancellor of OUSL, attended the meeting.

**National Policy for ODL in Higher Education**

CEMCA participated in a roundtable meeting to review the draft policy for ODL in higher education in Sri Lanka developed by consultant, Professor Uma Coomaraswamy. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr S.B. Dissanayake, the Minister for Higher Education at the time. The Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission and the Secretary, Higher Education were also present.

OUSL led a consultative process with government and other tertiary institutions that resulted in their National ODL Policy.

**National Policy on Community Radio**

CEMCA in association with Sri Lanka Development Journalist Forum (SDJF) and the Ministry of Mass Media organised a national level consultation on community radio to develop recommendations for a new policy on community broadcasting in Sri Lanka.