



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

**COUNTRY REPORT**  
2021-2023 | **ASIA**

---



**Brunei**  
**Darussalam**

## Helping Commonwealth Member States and institutions use distance learning and technologies for expanding access to education and training.

---

**The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)** is focused on adding value to member states' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting the governments and institutions of the Commonwealth in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development.

During its current plan (2021-2027), COL will:

- i) build on its expertise in ODL, OER and TEL to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
- ii) invest in innovations and research;
- iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
- iv) promote gender equality; and
- v) implement a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan.

COL's work is organised into two sectors — Education and Skills — with Gender Equality and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) as cross-cutting initiatives.

The Education sector supports formal education from secondary to tertiary levels across the Commonwealth, particularly in the small states (Brunei Darussalam and Maldives) and has four initiatives: Open Schooling; Teacher Education; Higher Education and the Virtual University for Small States of The Commonwealth (VUSSC).

The Skills sector supports formal, non-formal and informal education and training to equip learners for livelihoods and has three initiatives: Skills for Work; Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

The work in these sectors complements the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each member state in the Commonwealth. These are:

1. Building National Resilience
2. Strengthening Institutions
3. Improving Lives and Livelihoods

## INTRODUCTION

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. Brunei Darussalam hosted COL's First Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning in 1999.

COL's work in Brunei Darussalam is primarily in the areas of higher education through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network and benefits from programmes under the aegis of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA). Learners from Brunei Darussalam are also benefitting from COL's free, open online courses and other available resources.

## PARTNERS

COL's partners in Brunei Darussalam include:

- Ministry of Education

## REGIONAL CENTRE

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) is located in New Delhi, India and was established to promote cooperation and collaboration in the creation and use of multiple media resources for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and skills development in the Commonwealth countries of Asia. Its activities revolve around COL's Strategic Plan 2021-27, but at the same time, CEMCA retains its regional focus, keeping in view the challenges and requirements of Asian Commonwealth countries.

CEMCA's Advisory Council meets once a year and functions as an advisory body on CEMCA's affairs and is responsible for broad policy formulation in the programme areas. The Council meets once a year and membership is rotated among the members in Commonwealth Asia.

During the 2021-2027 plan, CEMCA will:

1. Build the capacity of institutions to transition to online and blended learning;
2. Support gender-responsive skills development for livelihoods; and
3. Develop innovations in a range of technologies from Community Radio to AI-based solutions for reaching the last mile.

## KEY CONTACTS

### FOCAL POINT

**Yang Mulia Dayang Rosimah Sumaimah binti Haji Matassim**

Acting Executive Secretary

Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council

Ministry of Education

## COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Workshop on 'Sustainable Farming Techniques' was conducted for bamboo cultivators in Brunei Darussalam.

### STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

COL is supporting partner institutions to strengthen its ODL systems and capacities for providing quality education and training.

CEMCA supported International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR), in the development of technical video content for Bamboo Scrimber, Laminated Composites and Value-Added Products for Bamboo Entrepreneurs of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. 6 videos are in Malay and 5 videos are in the English language. [Oct2022]

### SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. The **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022.

CEMCA held their **22<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Council Meeting** in New Delhi on 26 December 2022. A major concern expressed was that even though distance learning had been embraced globally during the pandemic, the negative perceptions relating to the quality of this mode of delivery continue to persist. Council members noted CEMCA's contribution to ODL in the region and outlined the priorities for the future.

The **Regional Focal Point meeting for Asia** was held in New Delhi, India, on 27-28 December 2022. COL's Focal Point Ms Rosimah Sumaimah binti Haji Matassim from the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council and Ms Siti Nabilah binti Haji Abu Nipah, Ministry of Education both participated in the two-day meeting.

## PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

Commonwealth Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) Annual Report: 2021-2022

<http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5301>

Blended Learning Policy: Templates for Higher Education Institutions in Commonwealth Asia (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5319>

Handbook on Online Education in Commonwealth Asia (CEMCA) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5259>

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) Achievement Report: July - November 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5345>

Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting – Asia <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5228>



4710 Kingsway, Suite 2500  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4M2  
Canada

Tel: +1.604.775.8200  
Fax: +1.604.775.8210  
E-mail: [info@col.org](mailto:info@col.org)  
Web: [www.col.org](http://www.col.org)