A region of small island states spread across a vast area, the Commonwealth Pacific faces distinct challenges. Most countries in the region have limited resources to support a large education and training infrastructure. The University of the South Pacific (USP) reaches a wide range of learners through open and distance learning (ODL), but a pressing need remains to increase economic productivity and literacy levels. COL is working with partners in the region to apply its expertise in ODL and information and communication technology (ICT) to help address education and development needs. The 11 member countries are Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

**CONTEXT**

**REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

- Support teacher educators in achieving minimum teacher qualifications and development
- Monitor and evaluate the integration of ICT in teaching and learning
- Determine how best to implement ICT infrastructure in schools, based on a cost–benefit analysis
- Build capacity in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and teacher training
- Provide open schooling for out-of-school youths
- Provide teacher training in ICTs for learning

**REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

The COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Pacific) was held in Samoa from 22 to 24 September 2014, co-hosted by the Samoan Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture in co-operation with the National University of Samoa. 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 the Pacific; and 2) identify COL’s role in addressing these key needs in the region.

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- VUSSC Postgraduate Diploma in Education made available
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- PACFOLD Regional Centre established at USP
- Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) referenced against the Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF)
- Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed

**QUICK NOTES**

**CONTEXT**

**REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

**REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Board:**

- Letuimanu’asina Dr Emma Kruse Va’ai (Samoa)
- His Excellency, the Rt Hon Sir Lockwood Smith (New Zealand)

**Honorary Advisors:**

- Dr Caroline Seelig (New Zealand)
- Ms Jenny Williams (New Zealand)

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

- Open Schooling
- Higher Education
- Teacher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Healthy Communities
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers
- eLearning
- Regional Centre (PACFOLD)
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.

► Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD) (Regional Centre)
► Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
► Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA)
► Pacific Association of Teacher Educators (PATE)
► University of the South Pacific (USP)

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

► Regional Focal Points Meeting
► Monitoring and Evaluation for COL’s Pan-Commonwealth networks
► Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum
► Regional Workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific

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 Postgraduate Diploma in Education
► Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate
► Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course
► Legislative Drafting Programme through University of the South Pacific (USP)

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 model
► Open Schooling model
At the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, the following priorities were identified:

- Curricula development in Maths, Science and Literacy
- Focus on the environment
- Support for skills and entrepreneurship
- Support for teacher education, particularly using ODL mode of delivery
- Aligning learning materials to national and regional qualifications frameworks
FIJI

CONTEXT

Fiji consists of about 300 islands (100 inhabited) and 540 islets, spread over three million square kilometres. The main campus of the regional University of the South Pacific (USP), founded 1968, is located in Suva. USP has been an important COL partner and hosts COL’s regional Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Support early childhood education, including the establishment of infant schools
- Pursue ICT for learning, including a one laptop per child programme
- Expand skills training in technology for employment

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

- Eleven new VUSSC courses made available
- Audio content developed for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course
- PACFOLD established at USP
- Flexible Learning (FL) activities reviewed at USP

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
- Address the special needs of small island developing states

COL’s Work on Fiji’s MDG Targets

- Flexible and ODL approaches are seeking to address issues of the accessibility of education that affect small island nations

QUICK NOTES

Areas of COL’s Work in Fiji:

- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- PACFOLD regional centre
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL identified relevant national priorities for Fiji from the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts webpage, including:

- Support for early childhood education including the establishment of infant schools
- Pursuing of ICT for learning including a one laptop per child programme
- Expansion of skills training in technology for employment
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Fiji

PARTNERSHIPS

**VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)**

Fiji is a member of VUSSC.

**Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)**

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders.

A meeting to establish an Advisory Board for PACFOLD was held at USP in Fiji, from 26 to 27 May 2014. The meeting was attended by the members of the Board in order to better understand the purpose of PACFOLD and their role in guiding it, and to ratify the early decisions regarding its establishment and governance.

The Director of PACFOLD, Professor Hasmukh Lal, came to COL in July 2014 to share his vision for the Centre and to collaborate on the development of the Strategic Plan for the first year of activities. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

**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. Fiji was not represented at this meeting.

**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.

**Flexible Approaches to TVET in the Pacific**

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs.

**MATERIALS**

**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 were revised and completely updated again in 2013. The student version of the programme has been...
converted to open educational resources (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. The programme is currently licensed by five universities in Asia, Africa, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Pacific. Thirteen of 15 candidates at the USP from five Member States, successfully completed the Legislative Drafting Programme in 2013. Fifteen candidates at the USP from five member countries were sponsored for the 2014 intake. Another 15 students were enrolled in the programme and are expected to complete by the end of 2015.

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.

Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course
Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course was developed by the Communications Department at National University of Samoa. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014. An evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework
A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.
Kiribati is a small state of the Commonwealth with a population of about 102,000 spread over islands and atolls covering an immense expanse of ocean. Kiribati is a contributor to COL’s budget. COL’s work with Kiribati is primarily through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC).

**CONTEXT**

- Address the disparate geographic profile of outer islands
- Build capacity of educators as part of the school improvement programme
- Increase the English proficiency of primary, junior and senior secondary school teachers through a “surge programme”

**NATIONAL PRIORITIES**

**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
- Address the special needs of small island developing states

**COL’s Work on Kiribati’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
- Support to expand access to Technical and Vocational Skills Development in the outer islands

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- Support provided for the outer islands delivery strategy
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Audio content developed for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**
- Ms Tererei Abete-Reema, Ministry of Education

**Areas of COL’s Work in Kiribati:**
- Open Schooling
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Healthy Communities
KIRIBATI

In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL identified relevant national priorities for Kiribati from the Kiribati Education Sector Strategic Plan, including:

► Addressing the disparate profiles of outer island learners
► Building of capacity of educators as part of a school improvement programme
► Raising of the English proficiency of primary, junior and senior secondary school teachers through a “surge programme”

LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021

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
► Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development
► Kiribati Institute of Technology
► Marine Training Centre
► Fisheries Training College
► University of the South Pacific (USP)
► Kiribati Teachers College
► PACFOLD regional centre

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

► Cost and Financing for Open Schools
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► 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.

► Legislative Drafting Programme
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course

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

OTHER
► Speeches and presentations
PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Kiribati is a member of VUSSC.

Support for Outer Islands Delivery Strategy

In January 2014, COL consultant Brian Sayer facilitated a workshop to develop an outer islands delivery strategy for Kiribati. There were 11 participants from the major stakeholders in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), including the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development, Kiribati Institute of Technology and the Marine Training Centre. This activity was done in collaboration with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade TVET Sector Strengthening Programme. COL continues to support the development of pilot programmes to expand access to TVET in the outer islands. COL visited Kiribati (North & South Tarawa, Abaiang) in June 2014 to advance the development of outer islands TVET delivery. Meetings were held with key stakeholders from Kiribati Institute of Technology, Fisheries Training College, USP and the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development and Ministry of Education. As part of this visit, COL facilitated a workshop for 15 people from the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development and other TVET stakeholders to advance the pilot programme development for the outer islands.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013

With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs) and TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. Attending the forum on behalf of Kiribati were: Elaine Luta, Kiribati Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development; Tekeinnang Morimai, Kiribati Institute of Technology; and Etekieru Lotua, Deputy Captain Superintendent, Kiribati Marine Training Centre.

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. Kiribati was not represented at this meeting.

CAPACITY

Cost and Financing for Open Schools

COL facilitated a regional Cost and Financing (for Open Schooling) workshop in Vanuatu on 19 November 2012. The workshop trained the participants about issues of concern in establishing and maintaining open schooling. Participants from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kiribati participated in the workshop. Mariateretia Nauree of the Ministry of Education, Kiribati and Tereeao Teingiia, University of the South Pacific (USP) Kiribati, attended the workshop.

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. Karabi Bate, Director
Flexible Approaches to TVET in the Pacific
In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Solomon Islands, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs. Mr Ritang Ubaitoi from Fisheries Training College and Mr Rokobati Tearo, from Kiribati Institute of Technology, participated in the workshop.

Community Learning Programme Developer’s Certificate
Two regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners in the Commonwealth. Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run in 2013/2014. In February to March 2014, one participant (male) from Kiribati received training.

MATERIALS
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 were revised and completely updated again in 2013. The student version of the programme has been converted to open educational resources (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. The programme is currently licensed by five universities in Asia, Africa, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Pacific. Thirteen of 15 candidates at the University of the South Pacific from five Member States, including Kiribati, successfully completed the Legislative Drafting Programme in 2013. Fifteen candidates at the USP from five member countries, including Kiribati, were sponsored for the 2014 intake. Another 15 students were enrolled in the programme and are expected to complete by the end of 2015.

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. Ane Teiaua, Lecturer in Science, Kiribati Teachers College, attended the workshop.

Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course
Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course was developed by the Communications Department at National University of Samoa. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014. An evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

MODELS
Transnational Qualifications Framework
A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

OTHER
Speeches and Presentations
The President and CEO of COL gave a keynote address to the Forum of Education Ministers’ Meeting (FEdMM) organised by the Forum Secretariat in April 2014. The Minister of Education of Kiribati, the Hon Maere Tekanene, was present at the meeting.
NAURU

CONTEXT

Nauru is a small state of the Commonwealth and the world’s smallest independent republic. It has a population of under 10,000 and covers just 21 square kilometres. Literacy rates are high, and the University of the South Pacific (USP) has a campus on the island.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

► Improve literacy and numeracy rates
► Improve primary and secondary school attendance
► Develop Nauruan-based curriculum with programmes in life skills, culture, language, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and the traditional subject areas of English, Maths, Science and Social Sciences

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
► Address the special needs of small island developing states

COL’s Work on Nauru’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

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

► Audio content developed for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available

QUICK NOTES

COL Focal Point:
► Dr Maria Gaiyabu, Ministry of Education

Areas of COL's Work in Nauru:
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
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.

- Department of Education
- Ministry of Youth Affairs
- University of the South Pacific
- PACFOLD regional centre

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

- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- Flexible Approaches to TVET

**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
- Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course

**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

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**LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021**

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

- Helping the general population be constructive and productive in their communities:
  - drop-out youth and the general population to be skilled in basic skills of their choice
  - financially disadvantaged youth and the general financially disadvantaged population to be equipped with skills of their choice
- youth with disabilities and the general disabled population to be equipped with basic skills of their choice or recommended skill by concerned officials
- youth and the general population with learning problems to be equipped with basic skills of their choice (or recommended skills for a particular learning problem)
- offering the general population the opportunity to develop entrepreneurship skills
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Nauru

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Nauru is a member of VUSSC.

Department of Education: Course Evaluations

In collaboration with the Department of Education, Nauru, an evaluation and tracer study of the Working in Concrete and Vocational Literacy course carried out in 2011 was undertaken in collaboration with the UNESCO officer in the Department of Education. The study aimed to evaluate the impact on participants and tutors of participating in this course, and made recommendations for delivery mechanisms for non-formal skills training courses in Nauru. The evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

Understanding the Nauruan Education Context

In June 2014, COL visited Nauru and met with officials from the Department of Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs and University of the South Pacific (USP) Regional Campus. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the relationship and better understand the Nauruan education context.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

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.

Flexible Approaches to TVET

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries. Francis Deireregea and Cecilia Giouba from Nauru attended. The purpose of the workshop was to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs.
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.

Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course

Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course was developed by the Communications Department at National University of Samoa. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014. An evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework

A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

CONTEXT

The largest of the Pacific Island countries, Papua New Guinea (PNG) has a population of about 7.3 million but is still considered a small state of the Commonwealth. Papua New Guinea faces numerous development challenges, many of them related to health and natural resource management. COL’s work in Papua New Guinea is COL’s most extensive in the Pacific region. Papua New Guinea has been contributing to COL’s budget.

AGREED PRIORITIES

► Develop institutional capacity through training and attachment/study visits
► Develop a policy framework for teacher training through open and distance learning (ODL)
► Develop in-country capacity for ICT-enhanced learning
► Promote open educational resources (OER) and in-country collaboration for content development
► Support establishment of the Papua New Guinea Open University (PNGOU)

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

► Capacity-building in open schooling for the Ministry of Education/Flexible Open and Distance Education (FODE) Unit underway
► TVET Flexible and Open Learning (FOL) Unit established
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available

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
► Address the special needs of small island developing states

COL’s Work on Papua New Guinea’s MDG Targets
► Training and materials provision in OER, ICTs, ODL and eLearning are underway
► 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

QUICK NOTES

COL’S WORK RELATED TO MDG TARGETS

COL Board:
► The Honourable Dame Dr Carol Kidu of Papua New Guinea was the Pacific representative on COL’s Board of Governors

COL Focal Points:
► Mr Bob Kiakari, Department of Education
► Mr Charles Mabia, Ministry of Higher Education, Science Research and Technology

Notable Mentions:
► Dr Kidu won an Excellence in Distance Education Award (EDEA).
► Professor Dr Abdul Mannan of the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) is an Honorary COL Advisor.

Areas of COL’s Work in Papua New Guinea:
► Teacher Education
► Higher Education
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
► Lifelong Learning for Farmers
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Points for Papua New Guinea were asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Papua New Guinea. The following areas were identified:

► Establishment of the PNG Open University

LUCING FORWARD: 2015–2021

► Building of institutional capacity in instructional design and collaboration for content development, and development of capacity through training and attachment/study visit
► Promoting of OER
► Development of in-country capacity for ICT-enhanced learning
► Development of a policy framework for teacher training through ODL
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Papua New Guinea

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Papua New Guinea is a member of VUSSC.

TVET Division, Department of Education: Support for Flexible and Open Learning (FOL) Unit

The TVET Division in the Department of Education, Papua New Guinea requested assistance with establishing a TVET Flexible and Open Learning (FOL) Unit. In October 2012, COL provided consultancy services to the TVET Division of the Department of Education, to develop a strategic plan and organisational structure for the new TVET Flexible and Open Learning Branch. A workshop on FOL in TVET was held on 15 October 2012 in Port Moresby and was attended by more than 50 stakeholders. The workshop included presentations from five institutions on their plans for flexible TVET programmes. The consultancy was carried out by GippsTAFE in Australia. The Strategic Plan and job descriptions for the FOL Unit are now in place.

In October 2013, Gipps TAFE provided three consultants to facilitate ODFL planning and materials development workshops for the FOL Unit of the TVET Wing, Department of Education in Papua New Guinea. The workshops were attended by 25 teachers and managers from four institutions in Port Moresby, including Limana Vocational Centre, Koki Vocational Centre, Port Moresby Technical College and Caritas Technical Secondary School.

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop for senior TVET wing managers and staff to discuss models of flexible learning and how COL might partner with the department and TVET institutions. A plan for capacity-building was agreed upon.

In September 2014, support continued to the TVET Flexible Open Learning Unit in PNG, with Clint Smith, COL consultant, providing input on managing TVET systems and materials development with instructors from six institutions: Caritas Technical Secondary School, Koki Vocational Centre, Kokopo Business College, Limana Vocational Centre, Morata Vocational College, and Port Moresby Technical College.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

Pastor Mike Field, Manager, Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation, is a member of the PACFOLD Advisory Board.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Ms Violet Ningakun of the University of Papua New Guinea Open College and Mr Michael Pepen of the Open and Distance Learning Educational Institution.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mr Charles Mabia represented Papua New Guinea at the meeting.

Convention on Open and Distance Learning

From 28 to 30 November 2012, COL was invited to participate in a convention on ODL hosted by the Ministry of Education/Flexible Open and Distance Education (FODE) in Papua New Guinea. The importance of open schooling in national development, open schooling in the Pacific and COL’s open schooling agenda was discussed. COL also introduced its many resources available on its website to assist in establishing open schools. Papa New Guinea (FODE) requested support from COL to develop a Multimedia Strategic Plan and to train faculty to develop multimedia.

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013

With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs) and TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. Attending the forum on behalf
of Papua New Guinea were: Ms Violet Gerega, TVET FOL unit, Department of Education, and Mr Jun Riverea. As a result, there are plans to pilot FOL skills training programmes in three institutions in Papua New Guinea.

**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 Charles Mabia of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science Research and Technology represented Papua New Guinea at the meeting.

**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. Mr Charles Mabia, Acting Director, Higher Education Development Division, Mr Francis Hualupmomi, Assistant Director, Institutional Development Branch of the Office of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Science Research and Technology, and Professor Samuel Haihuie, Executive Director of UPNG Open College, University of Papua New Guinea, attended the meeting.

**Capacity-Building at Ministry of Education, Flexible Open and Distance Education (FODE)**

COL has been supporting capacity-building for the FODE department in Papua New Guinea. COL attended the Multimedia Strategy workshop at FODE in Papua New Guinea in November 2013 as a resource contact for open schooling. In addition, COL supported a two-day capacity-building and strategy development workshop at FODE, Papua New Guinea, in November 2013. In May 2014, COL facilitated two workshops at FODE on the database and the curriculum process review, in support of the World Bank initiative to develop curriculum content and enhance its policies and services.

**Flexible Approaches to TVET**

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Papua New Guinea, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs.

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

Two regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners in the Commonwealth, including the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) and the Media and Training Centre for Health.

Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run in 2013/2014. In February to March 2014, seven participants (five women and two men) were registered for the training. In the 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course run in April to June 2014, one participant (a woman) from Papua New Guinea was engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for community learning programmes based on formative research.

**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 open educational resources (OER). Mr Paul Nongur, Programme Manager, Curriculum Implementation, of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Department of Open and Distance Learning, 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. Participants from Papua New Guinea, Maldives and Dominica expressed interest in purchasing a kit for testing purposes.

Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course

The Communications Team, with assistance from the Multimedia Team at National University of Samoa, completed the development of audio materials for the Pacific Vocational Literacy and Numeracy course. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014.

COL OER Adapted

Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation has adapted COL OERs for the development of their new non-formal business management training programme.

MODELS

Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) Model

Stakeholders such as the University of Natural Resources and Environment, Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation and National Centre for Financial Inclusion of Microfinance Expansion Project came together during May 2012 to develop a strategy for launching an L3F initiative in Papua New Guinea. A concept note was developed and, based on that, COL developed an action plan to support the launching of the initiative.

During November–December 2012, a four-member team from Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation and Kairak Vudal Resource Training Centre visited the L3F programme villages in India. Based on the visit, Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation has developed a financial literacy programme.

From 22 to 24 April 2013, COL organised a training programme on gender mainstreaming in projects and organisations for L3F partners in Papua New Guinea. Fifteen senior officials from Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation and Kairak Vudal Resource Training Centre attended the workshop.

Transnational Qualifications Framework

A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

OTHER

Speeches and Presentations

The President and CEO of COL gave a keynote address at the Forum of Education Ministers’ Meeting (FEdMM) organised by the Forum Secretariat in April 2014. The Honourable Minister of Education of Papua New Guinea was present.
**CONTEXT**
A small state of the Commonwealth with a population of about 190,000, Samoa benefits from COL’s activities in the region, including those associated with the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC).

**AGREED PRIORITIES**
- Develop an ODL policy for Samoa
- Develop infrastructure, such as SchoolNet, to reach all schools and secure sustainable connectivity
- Build capacity to produce both online and offline materials that are affordable or free
- Train teachers to develop online materials at various levels
- Create a unit to provide pedagogical and technical support to help teachers use information and communication technology (ICT) to deliver curriculum
- Develop core modules and training for teacher use of ICTs

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- First group of VUSSC students graduated with Diplomas in Sustainable Agriculture from the National University of Samoa, and all graduates are now in full-time employment
- Life Skills Coaches Training Manual and course in Permaculture developed
- Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed

**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
- Address the special needs of small island developing states

**COL’s Work on Samoa’s MDG Targets**
- Training and materials provision in OER, ICTs, ODL and eLearning are underway
- 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

**QUICK NOTES**
**COL Board:**
- Letuimanu’asina Dr Emma Kruse Va’ai, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Samoa, is the Pacific representative on COL’s Board of Governors.

**COL Focal Point:**
- Dr Ioana Chan Mow, National University of Samoa

**Areas of COL’s Work in Samoa:**
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Samoa was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Samoa. The following areas were identified:

► Development of an ODL policy
► Creating of infrastructure (such as SNBH and SchoolNet) to reach all schools and secure sustainable connectivity
► Building of capacity to produce both online and offline materials which are affordable or free

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 Sports and Culture
► National University of Samoa
► Matuaileoo Environment Trust Inc. (METI)
► Samoa Qualifications Authority
► Samoa Quality Broadcasting
► Samoa Association of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SATVETI)
► PACFOLD regional centre

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

► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Life Skills Coach Training
► Instructional design

**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.

► Legislative Drafting Programme
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Life Skills Coaches Training Manual and course in permaculture
► Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course

**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

**OTHER**

► Speeches and presentations

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► Flexible Approaches to TVET
► Social media for NGOs

**HIGHLIGHTS**
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► Transnational Qualifications Framework

**OTHER**

► Speeches and presentations
PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Samoa is a member of VUSSC. VUSSC celebrated a milestone in June 2013 with the first group of students graduating with Diplomas in Sustainable Agriculture from the National University of Samoa. All graduates found full-time employment.

Matuaileoo Environment Trust Inc (METI): TVET Partnership

On 14 March 2013, COL visited the METI offices and training facility and farm outside Apia. COL is supporting METI to strengthen its training of community development workers. Life Skills Coach Trainers are being trained and new self-instructional learning materials for Life Skills Coaches are being developed.

COL met with the Honourable Minister of Education, Acting CEO of the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture and the COL Focal Point in Apia, Samoa, on 15 March 2013 to discuss COL’s work in TVET in the Pacific, community learning centres and COL support to Samoan NGO, METI.

COL Education Specialist, TVSD, met with COL partner METI in September 2014 to review outcomes from earlier interventions and plan future capacity-building activities. A meeting was also held with the CEO of the Samoa Qualifications Authority, Fepulea’i Sinapi Moli, in September 2014 to discuss collaboration on a system of recognition for non-formal skills qualifications. COL Vice President visited METI in September 2014 to learn more about their activities in community development and resource-based learning.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Dr Emma Kruse-Var’ai and Ms Lineta Tamankaiyaroi, both of the National University of Samoa.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

The COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Pacific) was held in Samoa from 22 to 24 September 2014, co-hosted by the Samoan Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, in cooperation with the National University of Samoa. Dr Ioana Chan Mow represented Samoa at the meeting.

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013

With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs), TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. Attending the forum on behalf of Samoa was Ms Eseta Faafiu Hope, President, SATVETI and Dean of Faculty of Applied Science, and Mr Tauvaga Vaai, Coordinator of CATT programme, Curriculum Development Office, National University of Samoa.

Regional Workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific

COL attended the regional workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific hosted by the National University of Samoa from 20 to 25 May 2013. The meeting’s participants included 21 representatives of teacher education departments in the ministries of education and teacher training institutions from seven countries. Discussed at the meeting were the challenges facing teacher education in the region, and the plans and priorities for 2013–2015. As well, three projects were identified with COL support envisioned:

Project 1: Upgrading Mathematics and Science Teachers

COL will collaborate with teacher training institutions to:

- design and implement special programmes for the training and upgrading of Science and Math teachers; and
organise continuing professional development workshops for Math and Science teachers so as to update the teachers’ knowledge and skills.

Project 2: Capacity-Building in ODL

COL will provide technical support to institutions in the region to build their capacity in ODL and in the use of appropriate technology (with COL using expertise available in the region).

Project 3: Provision of support to the Pacific Association of Teacher Educators (PATE)

COL will be asked to consider providing support to PATE so that PATE’s objectives can be achieved, in particular those relating to:

- professional development of teacher educators in the region;
- research and publications; and
- support for PATE as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on teacher development.

It was agreed that concept notes should be submitted to COL on the three projects before 30 June 2013. It was also agreed that the National University of Samoa should develop and submit the concept note for Project 1; Solomon Islands for Project 2; and Tonga for Project 3, on behalf of the participating countries and institutions.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD) Consultation Meeting

COL facilitated a consultation meeting for 16 Pacific stakeholders to consider the role and activities of the Pacific Regional Centre, held in Vanuatu from 18 to 20 June 2013. Participants came from Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, New Zealand, pan-Pacific organisations, NGOs and the host institution, University of the South Pacific (USP). Attending the forum on behalf of Samoa were Ms Gatoloaifaaana Tilianamua To’omata Afamasaga, Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, and Ms Lineta Tamanikaiyaroi, Head of Construction Department, Faculty of Applied Science of the National University of Samoa, attended 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. Dr Emma Kruse-Ya’ai and Ms Lineta Tamanikaiyaroi, both of the National University of Samoa, represented Samoa at the meeting.

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. Ms Gatoloaifaaana Tilianamua To’omata Afamasaga, Strategic Advisor of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, and Ms Lineta Tamanikaiyaroi, Head of Construction Department, Faculty of Applied Science of the National University of Samoa, attended the meeting.

Life Skills Coaches Training

A consultancy was held at METI for two weeks in March 2013 to train seven life skills coaches. The Training Officers who participated were: Aloema Leaupepe, Lauano Semau Avalelei Leoo Iakopo Faatauvaa, Anamaria Mataafa, Lana Magele, Nuulelei Toga, Faleasi Tuala, Matagalu Moemai and METI Director, Dr Walter Vermeulen.

Social Media for NGOs

A workshop on the use of social media for NGOs was facilitated for staff from METI and the Samoa National Youth Council in October 2014. The workshop was designed to increase the knowledge and usability of social media integration for effective capacity building. Participants developed a toolkit containing guidelines on strategy, communications, social change, web presence, and social media for NGOs. The consultant was Verleshwar Singh from Fiji.

Flexible Approaches to TVET

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Samoa, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific
TVET institutions or NGOs. Mr Vaelupe Uatisone and Ms Ateca Silatolu from NUS participated in the workshop.

**MATERIALS**

**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 were revised and completely updated again in 2013. The student version of the programme has been converted to open educational resources (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.

Initially, the course was conducted using a distance learning mode and ran for 30 weeks, from April to November 2012. A total of 22 students enrolled in the Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting (PDLD) programme and COL offered scholarships to Kerry Miti Kwan and Sioa A. Sioa of Samoa to study in the programme. Thirteen of 15 candidates at the USP from five Member States, including Samoa, successfully completed the programme. Fifteen candidates from five Member States, including Samoa, were sponsored for the 2014 intake. Another fifteen are currently enrolled in the programme and expected to complete by the end of 2015.

**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. Twenty-eight participants from 14 countries participated in the workshop, with Samoa having the biggest contingent of 15 participants. Much of the course was developed using open educational resources (OER).

**Life Skills Coaches Training Manual and Course in Permaculture**

From 13 to 17 January 2014, Ms Gatoloaifaana Tilianamua To’omata Afamasaga facilitated a workshop at METI to build capacity in print-based instructional design for 7 life skills coach trainers. Through ongoing remote support to this team, a manual for training life skills coaches and a course in permaculture have been developed. The Permaculture and the Life Skills Coach Training Manuals will be available as OERs. METI is in the process of training 20 new “Taiala” (life skills coaches) through flexible training.

**Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course**

The Communications Team, with assistance from the Multimedia Team at National University of Samoa, completed the development of audio materials for the Pacific Vocational Literacy and Numeracy course. In January 2014, COL met with Dr Emma Kruse Va’ai and the Communications team at the National University of Samoa to advance the development of the audio materials. The audio materials complement the existing printed Vocational Literacy and Numeracy course that is used with the Pacific Basic Trades Training programme in different countries. This course was offered by two schools in Apia. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content, and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014.

**MODELS**

**Transnational Qualifications Framework**

A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (POF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

**OTHER**

**Speeches and Presentations**

The Vice-President of COL gave a video presentation titled “Teacher Development: Working Together to Achieve Quality Education” at the Regional Workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific from 20 to 22 May 2013, held in Samoa.
SOLOMON ISLANDS

CONTEXT

Solomon Islands is a small state of the Commonwealth consisting of nearly 1,000 islands with a population of about 560,000. It faces significant development and educational challenges and is a major focus of the New Zealand Aid Programme support. The University of the South Pacific (USP) has a campus on the Solomon Islands. The nation contributes to COL’s budget.

AGREED PRIORITIES

► Support basic education, including education for out-of-school youth and those with disabilities
► Include practical subjects, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses, and information and communication technology (ICT) knowledge in junior secondary school curriculum
► Revise senior secondary school curriculum
► Develop new programmes and modules, such as computing studies, for training centres

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL

► Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed
► Support provided for Community Learning Programme (CLP) development in Isabel Province
► COL Vocational Literacy open educational resources (OER) in use in 25 Rural Training Centres
► A draft ODL plan and 12 draft ODL course units completed at Solomon Islands National University
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available

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
► Address the special needs of small island developing states

COL’s Work on Solomon Islands’ MDG Targets
► Training and materials provision in OER, ICTs, ODL and eLearning are underway
► Support provided for Technical and Vocational Skills Development
► 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
► Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed
► Support provided for Community Learning Programme (CLP) development in Isabel Province
► COL Vocational Literacy open educational resources (OER) in use in 25 Rural Training Centres
► A draft ODL plan and 12 draft ODL course units completed at Solomon Islands National University
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available

COL Focal Point:
► Dr. Franco Rodie, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

Areas of COL’s Work in Solomon Islands:
► Open Schooling
► Higher Education
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
► Healthy Communities

QUICK NOTES

Solomon Islands is a small state of the Commonwealth consisting of nearly 1,000 islands with a population of about 560,000. It faces significant development and educational challenges and is a major focus of the New Zealand Aid Programme support. The University of the South Pacific (USP) has a campus on the Solomon Islands. The nation contributes to COL’s budget.
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 and Human Resource Development
► University of the South Pacific (USP)
► Solomon Islands National University (SINU)
► Isabel Provincial Government (IPG)
► PACFOLD regional centre

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

► Cost and Financing for Open Schools
► Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
► Flexible Approaches to TVET
► 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.

► Legislative Drafting Programme
► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Draft ODL Plan and courses for Solomon Islands National University (SINU)
► Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course
► COL Vocational Literacy OER

**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
► Healthy Communities model

**LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021**
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Solomon Islands was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Solomon Islands. The following areas were identified:

► Reviewing of the content of courses being developed for the Certificate in Teaching Primary programme
► Rolling out of the delivery of the Certificate in Teaching Primary in the remaining provinces of Central Islands: Isabel, Rennell and Bellona, Western, Honiara and Choiseul

► Designing and developing of professional development modules for school leaders and teachers
► Incorporating and strengthening of the Community Education Department in the restructuring programme currently being implemented by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
► Developing of a design, programme specifications and modules for delivery to the population who left formal schooling
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Solomon Islands

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)**

**Solomon Islands** is a member of VUSSC.

**Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development: TVSD**

COL met with the **Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development** in Solomon Islands in September 2014 to discuss the COL programme and possible collaboration with TVSD.

**Flexible Learning Audit at University of the South Pacific, Honiara**

The President and CEO of COL visited the Solomon Islands 25 August 2014 to conduct an audit of the Flexible Learning provided at the **USP Regional Campus in Honiara**.

**Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)**

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

**PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

**Regional Focal Points Meeting**

**Mr James Bosamata** represented Solomon Islands at the meeting.

**Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013**

With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs) and TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. Attending the forum on behalf of the Solomon Islands were **Mr John Wate**, Director of TVET, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, and **Mr Cyriano Nuake**, Board Member, Solomon Islands Association of Rural Training Centres (SIARTC).

**Regional Workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific**

COL attended the regional workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific hosted by the National University of Samoa from 20 to 25 May 2013. The meeting’s participants included 21 representatives of teacher education departments in the ministries of education and teacher training institutions from seven countries. Discussed at the meeting were the challenges facing teacher education in the region, and the plans and priorities for 2013–2015. As well, three projects were identified with COL support envisioned:

- **Project 1: Upgrading Mathematics and Science Teachers**
  - COL will collaborate with teacher training institutions to:
    - design and implement special programmes for the training and upgrading of Science and Math teachers; and
    - organise continuing professional development workshops for Math and Science teachers so as to update the teachers’ knowledge and skills.

- **Project 2: Capacity-Building in ODL**
  - COL will provide technical support to institutions in the region to build their capacity in ODL and in the use of appropriate technology (with COL using expertise available in the region).

- **Project 3: Provision of support to the Pacific Association of Teacher Educators (PATE)**
  - COL will be asked to consider providing support to PATE so that PATE’s objectives can be achieved, in particular those relating to:
    - professional development of teacher educators in the region;
    - research and publications; and
    - support for PATE as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on teacher development.

It was agreed that concept notes should be submitted to COL on the three projects before 30 June 2013. It was also agreed that the National University of Samoa should develop and submit the concept note for Project 1; **Solomon Islands** for Project 2; and Tonga for Project 3, on behalf of the participating countries and institutions.
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.

Ms Christina V. Bakolo of the Solomon Islands National Commission for UNESCO represented Solomon Islands at the meeting.

CAPACITY

Cost and Financing for Open Schools

COL facilitated a regional Cost and Financing (for Open Schooling) workshop in Vanuatu on 19 November 2012. The workshop trained the participants about issues of concern in establishing and maintaining open schooling. Participants from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kiribati participated in the workshop. Mr Allen Keti of Honiara High School, Mr James Iroga of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, Solomon Islands, and Ms Irene Anigafutu of the University of the South Pacific (USP) Solomon Islands attended the workshop.

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. Ms Christina V. Bakolo, Secretary of the Solomon Islands National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, and Mr Noel Silvernium Galasau, System Administrator and Computer Literacy Tutor of the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), attended the workshop.

Flexible Approaches to TVET

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Solomon Islands, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs. Mr Solomon Pita and Mr Jeremy Enaly, both from SINU, participated in the workshop.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Two regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners in the Commonwealth.

Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run in 2013/2014. In October to November 2014, five participants (one woman and four men) from Solomon Islands participated in the training from government and civil society organisations. In February to March 2014, one participant (male) from Solomon Islands participated in the training.

In the 10-week “Research for Planning” e-course run in April to June 2014, two participants (male) from the country were engaged in the training and mentoring course, resulting in comprehensive plans for CLPs based on formative research.

MATERIALS

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 were revised and completely updated again in 2013. The student version of the programme has been converted to open educational resources (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.

Thirteen of 15 candidates at USP from five Member States, including Solomon Islands, successfully completed the Legislative Drafting Programme in 2013. Fifteen candidates from five Member States, including Solomon Islands, were sponsored for the 2014 intake. Another fifteen are currently enrolled in the programme and expected to complete by the end of 2015.

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.

**Draft ODL Plan and Courses for SINU**
As a follow-up to the regional workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific, COL held a three-day consultative/planning meeting 19 to 23 May 2014 at SINU. A draft plan was developed for integration of ODL at SINU.

Another workshop held at SINU in July 2014 resulted in the drafting of 12 course units for five schools (Education and Humanities, Business and Management, Technology and Maritime Studies, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, and Natural Resources and Applied Sciences).

**Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course**
Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course was developed by the Communications Department at National University of Samoa. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014. An evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

**COL Vocational Literacy OER**
In 2014, Solomon Islands reported the use of COL Vocational Literacy OERs in 25 Rural Training Centres.

These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

**Healthy Communities Model: Isabel Province**
Consultation with local stakeholders concerning development of Community Learning Programmes (CLPs) in Isabel Province was conducted between July and September 2012.

An advocacy workshop on Communication for Development facilitated by COL’s consultant, Dr. Jerry Watkins of the University of Western Sydney, was held in Isabel Province on 24 September 2012. At the workshop were 22 participants from the Isabel Provincial Government (IPG), civil society and the private sector, including the Hon Michael Meredi, Deputy Premier/Minister of Health, the Hon Peter Tugunau, Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, the Hon J. Votu, and the Hon Dick Daoleni, Minister of Community Affairs. The workshop resulted in plans for CLPs and recommendations for IPG to consider in moving forward with the network of community media outlets in the province.

**OTHER**

**Speeches and Presentations**
The President and CEO of COL gave a keynote address at the Forum Education Ministers’ Meeting (FEdMM) in the Cook Islands on 31 March 2014 and two presentations about COL’s work in the Pacific. The Minister of Education and Human Resources Development of the Solomon Islands was present, and received an Aptus device from COL.
The Kingdom of Tonga is a small state of the Commonwealth made up of 176 islands with a population of just over 105,000. Tonga has made good progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and recognises the potential of open and distance learning (ODL) to support development and education. Tonga contributes to COL’s budget.

**Agreed Priorities**

► Develop modules for information and communications technology (ICT) teacher education to be delivered to untrained graduate teachers in the outer islands and main district areas
► Train teachers to develop online materials at higher education levels
► Build capacity to upskill teachers in using ICTs in teaching and learning
► Establish new physical infrastructure in the Tonga Institute of Higher Education to provide technical support to train teachers to use ICT and to deliver technical and vocational education and training (TVET) curriculum programmes

**Outcomes Achieved by COL**

► 11 new VUSSC courses made available
► Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed

**Quick Notes**

**COL Focal Point:**
► Lady Siatukimoana Vaea, Ministry of Education and Training

**Areas of COL’s Work in Tonga:**
► Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
► Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)

**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
► Address the special needs of small island developing states

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

- Promotion of teacher training and professional development
- Provision of skilled labour training to help grow the economy, boost productivity, improve standards of living in families and communities, and meet the niche labour markets overseas
- Restructuring of higher education
- Provision of support for quality assurance and assessment
- Provision of support for research and leadership

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 and Training
- University of the South Pacific
- PACFOLD regional centre

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

- Cost and Financing for Open Schools
- Monitoring and Evaluation for VUSSC
- Gender Mainstreaming for Open Schools
- Flexible Approaches to TVET

**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.

- Legislative Drafting Programme
- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course

**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

**OTHER**

- Speeches and presentations

**LOOKING FORWARD: 2015–2021**

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

- Promotion of teacher training and professional development
- Provision of skilled labour training to help grow the economy, boost productivity, improve standards of living in families and communities, and meet the niche labour markets overseas
- Restructuring of higher education
- Provision of support for quality assurance and assessment
- Provision of support for research and leadership
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Tonga

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Tonga is a member of VUSSC.

University of the South Pacific, Tonga: Open Schooling

In November 2012, a desktop review of existing documentation on secondary school provision in Tonga was undertaken and discussions were held with the management team at the USP Tonga Campus and Ministry of Education and Training officials to discuss the development of the College of Open Schooling at the USP Campus and to discuss a National Policy for Open Schooling. Following the discussions, a proposal for the establishment of the College of Open Schooling was developed.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013

With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs) and TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. Attending the forum on behalf of Tonga were: Mr Oto Misili, Director, Tonga Institute of Science and Technology, and Lady Siatukimoana Vaea, Deputy Director, Post-Secondary Education, Ministry of Education.

Regional Workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific

COL attended the regional workshop on Teacher Education in the Pacific hosted by the National University of Samoa from 20 to 25 May 2013. The meeting’s participants included 21 representatives of teacher education departments in the ministries of education and teacher training institutions from seven countries. Discussed at the meeting were the challenges facing teacher education in the region, and the plans and priorities for 2013–2015. As well, three projects were identified with COL support envisioned:

Project 1: Upgrading Mathematics and Science Teachers

COL will collaborate with teacher training institutions to:
► design and implement special programmes for the training and upgrading of Science and Math teachers; and
► organise continuing professional development workshops for Math and Science teachers so as to update the teachers’ knowledge and skills.

Project 2: Capacity-Building in ODL

COL will provide technical support to institutions in the region to build their capacity in ODL and in the use of appropriate technology (with COL using expertise available in the region).

Project 3: Provision of support to the Pacific Association of Teacher Educators (PATE)

COL will be asked to consider providing support to PATE so that PATE’s objectives can be achieved, in particular those relating to:
► professional development of teacher educators in the region;
► research and publications; and
► support for PATE as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on teacher development.

It was agreed that concept notes should be submitted to COL on the three projects before 30 June 2013. It was also agreed that the National University of Samoa should develop and submit the concept note for Project 1; Solomon Islands for Project 2; and Tonga for Project 3, on behalf of the participating countries and institutions.

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. Tonga was not represented at the meeting.

**CAPACITY**

**Cost and Financing for Open Schools**

COL facilitated a regional Cost and Financing (for Open Schooling) workshop in Vanuatu on 19 November 2012. The workshop trained the participants about issues of concern in establishing and maintaining open schooling. Participants from Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga participated in the workshop. James Lengi of St. Nicholas Secondary School, Paul Fonua of Tailulu College, Kalafotoni Latu of Tonga College, Tuipulotu Finau of Tonga High School and Sela Kakala Havae of the University of the South Pacific (USP) Tonga attended the workshop.

**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. Lady Siatukimoana Vaea, Deputy Director, Post-Secondary Education, and Seilosehina Fifita, Chief Education Officer of the Tonga Institute of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Training, attended the meeting.

**Gender Mainstreaming for Open Schools**

To ensure that open schools mainstream gender in their activities, COL organised three one-day workshops, starting in March 2014 in Tonga to discuss the Guide to Integrating Gender Equity and Equality, developed by a COL consultant.

**Flexible Approaches to TVET**

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Tonga, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs.

**MATERIALS**

**Legislative Drafting Programme**

USP Vanuatu has signed a licence agreement with COL to offer the Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting (PDDL) to students in the Pacific Islands of the Commonwealth.

The course was conducted using a distance learning mode and ran for 30 weeks from April to November 2012. A total of 22 students enrolled in the PDDL and COL offered scholarships to Fitilagi Fa’anunu, Silivia V. Atiola and V.L. Macomber of Tonga to study in the programme. Thirteen of 15 candidates at the USP from five Member States, including Tonga, successfully completed the legislative drafting programme in 2013. Fifteen candidates from five Member States, including Tonga, were sponsored for the 2014 intake. Another fifteen are currently enrolled in the programme and expected to complete by the end of 2015.

**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. Twenty-eight participants from 14 countries participated in the workshop, with Samoa having the biggest contingent of 15 participants to help with the course writing. Much of the course was developed using OER.
Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course

Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course was developed by the Communications Department at National University of Samoa. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014. An evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework

A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.

OTHER

Speeches and Presentations

The Vice-President of COL gave a video presentation titled “Education and Training: Building the Critical Platform for Social and Economic Development in the Pacific” at the Pacific TVET Open Distance and Flexible Learning Forum from 25 to 28 March 2013, held in Tonga.
**CONTEXT**

A Polynesian island nation with a population of just under 10,000, Tuvalu is the fourth smallest country in the world. The literacy rate is high, so Tuvalu’s educational focus is on developing vocational skills. Tuvalu is a regular contributor to COL’s budget.

**AGREED PRIORITIES**

- Develop core modules for information and communication technology (ICT) Teacher Education programme
- Build capacity of teachers to use ICTs in teaching and learning
- Develop modules in selected learning programmes for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to be delivered through flexible mode
- Train teachers in developing online materials at various levels
- Support the Education Department (Supervisory Unit) to provide pedagogical and technical support to teachers using ICT in delivery of curriculum

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY COL**

- 11 new VUSSC courses made available
- Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed
- Three Basic Trades OER used in primary schools in Tuvalu

**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
- Address the special needs of small island developing states

**COL’s Work on Tuvalu’s 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
- Support provided for Technical and Vocational Skills Development

**QUICK NOTES**

**COL Focal Point:**
- Ms Katalina P. Taloka, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

**Areas of COL’s Work in Tuvalu:**
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
Pursuing Technical Vocational and Skills Development (TVSD) initiatives
Establishing of open schooling (to promote second-chance education)
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Tuvalu

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)
Tuvalu is a member of VUSSC.

Ministry of Education: Outer Islands Flexible TVSD Programme
COL visited Tuvalu from 15 to 18 September 2014 to meet with the Department of Education in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and other TVSD stakeholders to discuss plans for a flexible TVSD programme based in the outer islands. Following this visit, COL met with the staff of the Teachers Educational Resource and eLearning Centre at the University of the South Pacific (Fiji) to discuss collaboration on Pacific regional projects, specifically support to Tuvalu Department of Education.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)
COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community. Ms. Katalina Taloka, Director of Education and COL Focal Point is a member of the PACFOLD Advisory Board.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Regional Focal Points Meeting
Ms Katalina P. Taloka, Director of Education, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, represented Tuvalu at the meeting.

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013
With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs) and TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. Attending the forum on behalf of Tuvalu were Mr Lapana Ene of Motufoua Secondary School and Ms Betty Vave of Nauti Primary School.

Pacific Regional Centre for ODL Stakeholders’ Consultation Meeting
COL facilitated a consultation meeting for 16 Pacific stakeholders to consider the role and activities of the Pacific Regional Centre, held in Vanuatu from 18 to 20 June 2013. Participants came from Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, New Zealand, pan-Pacific organisations, NGOs and the host institution, University of the South Pacific. Ms Katalina P. Taloka, COL Focal Point and Director of Education, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, attended 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. Ms Katalina P. Taloka of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports represented Tuvalu at the meeting.
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. Ms Katalina P. Taloka, Director of Education and Mrs Maseiga Ionatana Osema, Senior Schools Supervisor of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and Mr Lapana Ene, School Supervisor TVET of Motufoua Secondary School, attended the meeting.

Flexible Approaches to TVET
In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Tuvalu, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs.

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. Ms Betty Vave, Head Teacher, Nauti Primary School, attended the workshop.

Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course
Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course was developed by the Communications Department at National University of Samoa. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014. An evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

Basic Trades OER
Three Basic Trades OER are being used in primary schools in Tuvalu.

MODELS

Transnational Qualifications Framework
A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.
A chain of islands in the South Pacific with a population of about 252,000, Vanuatu is a small state of the Commonwealth. Vanuatu is a strong supporter of COL's activities in the region and is involved in several COL initiatives, including the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) and Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD).

**National MDG Targets Addressed by COL**
- Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications
- Eliminate gender disparity in education
- Address the special needs of small island developing states

**COL's Work on Vanuatu's MDG Targets**
- Training and materials provision in OER, ICTs, ODL and eLearning are underway
- Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Centre Association (VRDTCA) is being supported to develop a programme in skills and entrepreneurship for girls
- Support provided for open schooling to increase accessibility of quality educational opportunities
- 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

**Vanuatu Open School established and twinning with Te Kura School in New Zealand underway**

**11 new VUSSC courses made available**

**Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course developed**

**Legislative Drafting Programme offered through University of the South Pacific, Vanuatu**

**Areas of COL's Work in Vanuatu:**
- Open Schooling
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)
- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD)
- Healthy Communities
In the lead-up to the 2014 Regional Focal Points Meeting, COL’s Focal Point for Vanuatu was asked to identify the country’s top priorities and what COL can do to further support the national agenda of Vanuatu. The following areas were identified:

- Securing of more trainers for TVET programmes and teachers for open schooling
- Development of ODL curriculum material for self-learning guide for both open schooling and TVET providers
- Development of a national ODL policy
- Creation of a sustainable ODL centre or department to become the hub of administration of ODL programmes
- Establishment of processes to ensure that students in all forms of open schooling receive equal privileges, such as assessment, pathways and scholarship, as students in the conventional schooling system
- Support for ODL teacher preparation
- Development of ICT in terms of connectivity, user guidelines, and teacher confidence
- Expansion of the use of existing COL resources and materials being developed through Boot Camps, etc.
- Increasing of community awareness and promoting of ODL to both Francophone and Anglophone communities in Vanuatu
Appendix: COL’s Activities in Vanuatu

PARTNERSHIPS

VUSSC (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth)

Vanuatu is a member of VUSSC. To initiate this partnership, COL met with the Minister and senior officials of the Ministry of Education to explore possible collaboration between VUSSC and Vanuatu. Separate meetings were also held with the Director of the newly established Vanuatu Qualifications Authority, Mr David Lambukly, and with senior managers and staff of the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT), Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education (VITE) and Malapoa College. All three institutions identified potential areas for capacity-building activities and delivery of VUSSC courses. In September 2014, COL met with stakeholders, including representative from VITE, VIT, and Malapoa College, along with key ministry officials, to discuss and encourage the take-up of VUSSC courses and programmes by the ministry and institutions.

Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Centres Association (VRDTCA): Skills and Entrepreneurship

On 17 June 2013, COL met with senior managers of VIT and VRDTCA to discuss the possibility of COL support to develop a distance learning programme in tourism at Level II. In June 2013, COL met with Ms Ginny Chapman, Aid Manager for New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) in Vanuatu, to discuss mutual support to VRDTCA.

Support to VRDTCA for Skills and Entrepreneurship for Girls Programme

COL consultant Terry Marler facilitated capacity-building sessions at VRDTCA and VIT in Vanuatu in October 2013. The purpose of the workshops was to build capacity in flexible course design for girls’ skills training and tourism by distance learning. Four participants from VRDTCA, two from the Epule Rural Training Centre and one from VIT attended the workshop. The team is being led by Mrs Kathy Solomon, the Director of VRDTCA. The COL Focal Point at the time, Mr John Niroa, assisted in organising the participants for the workshop, which resulted in a blueprint and plan for the new programme.

In March 2014, Mrs Atelini Koroiwaca facilitated a workshop to develop the learning materials for the new programme in four core courses. The workshop was attended by eight subject specialists from VRDTCA and Rural Training Centres. Also in March, Mrs Koroiwaca facilitated a capacity-building workshop to develop draft course materials for a skills training programme for girls in Vanuatu provided by VRDTCA. Ten members of VRDTCA and tutors from rural training centres participated.

Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development (PACFOLD)

COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP) agreed to establish a regional centre to strengthen the use of open and distance learning (ODL) in formal, non-formal and informal learning, particularly in skills development, health and agriculture. The aim is to add value to the development process in the region. The centre is based at the Regional Centre for Continuing & Community Education (RCCCE) at USP in Suva. However, the Pacific Regional Centre for ODL is designed to meet the needs of the whole region and makes extensive use of technology to reduce distance between stakeholders. The launch of PACFOLD took place at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in Samoa in September 2014 and included the introduction of the PACFOLD learn online community.

PARTNERSHIPS: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

7th Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF7)

COL sponsored the following people to the forum: Mr George Jonathan Maeltoka of the Ministry of Education.

Regional Focal Points Meeting

Mr George Jonathan Maeltoka represented Vanuatu at the meeting.

Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum 2013

With Central Gippsland Institute of Technical and Further Education (GippsTAFE), Australia, COL facilitated the Pacific TVET Open, Distance and Flexible Learning Forum in Tonga from 22 to 25 March 2013. The forum was attended by 26 participants from government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisations (FBOs) and TVET institutions in seven Pacific countries: Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. Development partners NZAID and AusAID also attended. The outcome of the forum was a road map for collaboration between TVET institutions in the region and a plan for COL capacity-building support for open, distance and flexible learning approaches. Attending the forum on behalf of Vanuatu were Mr Joe Lautim, Director TVET, Ministry of Education, Mr Jack Takalo Tavimasoe, Deputy Principal, Vanuatu Institute of Technology, Mr David Lambukly, Director, Vanuatu National Training Council, and Ms Kathy Solomon, Director, Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Centres Association.
Pacific Regional Centre for ODL Stakeholders’ Consultation Meeting

COL facilitated a consultation meeting for 16 Pacific stakeholders to consider the role and activities of the centre, held in Vanuatu 18 to 20 June 2013. Participants came from Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, New Zealand, pan-Pacific organisations, NGOs and the host institution, USP. Mr Sam Samuel, Quality Assurance Manager, Vanuatu National Training Council, attended the meeting.

Consultative Workshop on Open Schooling

In November 2013, COL participated as a resource for open schooling at a consultative workshop in Vanuatu on the establishment of open schooling and on the development of an open schooling policy.

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 George Jonathan Maeltoka of the Ministry of Education represented Vanuatu at the meeting.

Ministry of Education and Training

The President and CEO of COL met the Director-General, Ministry of Education and Training on 22 August 2014 in Port Vila and discussed the possibility of a closer engagement with COL.

CAPACITY

Cost and Financing for Open Schools

COL facilitated a regional Cost and Financing (for Open Schooling) workshop in Vanuatu on 19 November 2012. The workshop trained the participants about issues of concern in establishing and maintaining open schooling. Participants from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kiribati participated in the workshop. Mr Emmanuel Aru, Mr Jack Matariki, Ms Julia Whippy, Mr Matthew Hall and Mr Willie Santhy of the Ministry of Education and Amton Mwarakurums, USP Vanuatu, attended the workshop.

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.

Learner Support for Tutors

In July 2013, COL conducted a Learner Support for Tutors in Learning Centres workshop in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Student Support Workshop for Open Schools

COL facilitated a workshop on student support for 16 participants, representing four schools (Santo East, College de Luganville, Hog Harbour, and St. Michel), along with the Ministry of Education in Luganville, Vanuatu, in November 2013.

Community Learning Programme (CLP) Developer’s Certificate

Two regional distance training and mentoring courses have been developed and delivered through a partnership between COL and its Healthy Communities partners in the Commonwealth. Two editions of the 5-week “Communication for Development (C4D): Why. How. Now.” e-course were run in 2013/2014. In February to March 2014, one participant from Vanuatu was involved in the training.

Flexible Approaches to TVET

In May 2014, COL facilitated a workshop in Fiji for 26 participants from nine Pacific countries, including Vanuatu, to build capacity in flexible approaches to TVET and develop plans for new courses according to country context. As a result, 17 new flexible TVET courses are in development from 12 Pacific TVET institutions or NGOs.

Flexible Learning Review Panel for University of the South Pacific

In the Memorandum of Understanding between COL and the University of the South Pacific (USP), USP requested COL to lead the review of the flexible learning provisions and functioning of the Centre for Flexible Learning. The Director of the Commonwealth Education Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) participated in the Flexible Learning Review Panel for USP at its Emalus Campus, Vanuatu in August 2014.
MATERIALS

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 were revised and completely updated again in 2013. The student version of the programme has been converted to open educational resources (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.

USP Vanuatu signed a licence agreement with COL to offer the Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting (PDLD) to students in the Pacific Islands of the Commonwealth. Initially, the course was conducted using a distance learning mode and ran for 30 weeks from April to November 2012. A total of 22 students enrolled in the PDLD and COL offered a scholarship to 15 students. Thirteen of 15 candidates at the USP from five member states, including Vanuatu, successfully completed the legislative drafting programme in 2013. Fifteen candidates at the USP from five member countries, including Vanuatu, were sponsored for the 2014 intake. Another fifteen are currently enrolled in the programme and expected to complete by the end of 2015.

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.

Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades Course

Audio content for the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy in Basic Trades course was developed by the Communications Department at National University of Samoa. In September 2014, the course materials were revised to integrate the audio content and the updated course was introduced to stakeholders at the Pacific Focal Points meeting in September 2014. An evaluation study of the 2012 delivery of this course in Nauru was completed in 2014.

Aptus: Classroom without Walls

Between March and June 2014, COL initiated field trials and provided Aptus sets to participants in 15 countries: Cameroon, Canada, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Republic of Kiribati, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, and Vanuatu. Since the initial trial, Aptus devices were ordered by Vanuatu to supplement a national “tablets for schools” initiative, and in January 2015, 22 devices were delivered. In April 2015 the Hon Minister of Education distributed the devices to participating institutions.

MODELS

Open Schooling Model: Vanuatu Open School

A Roundtable on Open Schooling was held on 26 November 2012. The roundtable provided an occasion for the Ministry of Education, Vanuatu, to discuss the opportunities and the possibilities to provide equitable access for children, including the provision of skills development. It also provided recommendations on the way forward for open schooling in Vanuatu. Nineteen participants from the Ministry of Education, Malapoa College, Central College, Shefa Education Office, Onesua Presbyterian College, Lycee LAB, Montmartre, Tebakor Secondary School, VITE, Examination Office and the University of the South Pacific (USP) Vanuatu attended the workshop.

Vanuatu established its open school in July 2013, and has been working with COL and the Te Kura Correspondence School, based in Wellington, New Zealand, to build its institutional capacity through twinning. In November 2013, COL visited Te Kura Correspondence School to learn about its model of open schooling and to discuss an agreement to support COL with the development of the Vanuatu Open School and its teachers through twinning.

In January 2014, COL contracted Te Kura to develop the instructional design capacity of course writers for the Vanuatu Open School. To this end, a workshop was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 20 to 24 January 2014, facilitated by Ms Beverly Jackson of Te Kura. Participants included 13 teachers from...
five secondary schools in Port Vila and two secondary schools in Santo, as well as one officer from the Sanma Provincial Education Office. The participants were also enrolled on Te Kura's online platform and started the curriculum content development process.

A second instructional design workshop took place for curriculum content developers in Vanuatu in August 2014. Seventeen people from Vanuatu attended the workshop and built capacity in developing instructional material.

**Transnational Qualifications Framework**

A referencing exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). As a result, the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) has now been referenced against the TQF. These qualifications will be recognised at both the regional and international levels.