

Update on the VUSSC

Cape Town, 10 December 2006



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

learning for development



The Commonwealth





Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



This was your initiative!

... to develop...a virtual university to particularly serve the small states of the Commonwealth, using existing structures and capacity. . .

14 CCEM, Halifax, 2000



These were your expectations!

- Expanded **access** to learning
- **Leaders** in education reform
- Cutting edge in **ICTs**
- “Players” in **global development**



This was your Vision

*“...a **consortium** of institutions, enabled by **appropriate ICT applications**... to plan programmes, develop the required **content** and ensure the delivery of those programmes and **support services to learners.**”*



What will VUSSC be?

- a **network** rather than an **institution** – a network with multiple nodes
- **not a new institution**
- **strengthen existing post-secondary institutions in your countries**



Where will VUSSC be located?

- wherever groups of countries and institutions are working together to develop courses/learning materials
- COL coordinating the network but the real activity taking place in the regions



How will it work?

Small States **work together** to produce, adapt and use courses and learning materials that would be difficult for one state to produce alone



What media will be used?

- A multi-media operation but....
- A special opportunity to develop expertise in online learning or eLearning.



Who will participate?

- All who are ready to collaborate and share
- 26 Commonwealth countries (+Comoros) already on board!



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FUNDING

- ❑ William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
\$US 350,000
- ❑ Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
£1 million (4 years)



Key events in VUSSC progress

- Singapore:
Planning meeting - September 2005
Planning meeting - April 2006
- Canada (Vancouver):
Organisation meeting- July 2006
- Mauritius:
Course development 'Boot Camp' - Aug. 2006
- Jamaica:
Planning meeting - November 2006



Singapore Statement (Courses)

- Teacher Education,
- Information and Communications Technology,
- Information Systems,
- Tourism and Hospitality,
- Nursing and Health Care,
- TechVoc Edn & Trg and Life Skills,
- Management & Public Administration,
- Agriculture and Fisheries.



Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006

- Orientation: concept of online collaboration and project planning
- Introduction to technologies, free open source software, Wikis, ePortfolios, etc.
- Production of course frameworks and creation of initial content
- Rapid learning of technology skills to enable participants to provide buddy-training



Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006





Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006





Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006





COL's role in the VUSSC

- Coordinate the initiative
- Facilitate creation of networks
- Share expertise in educational technology: radio, TV, print, multi-media, internet, wikis, eLearning
- Support local capacity enhancement
- Share resources



But COL is not...

- A degree-awarding body
- A funding body



The role of Ministries

- Develop policy**
- Liaise with other ministries**
- Allocate people and responsibilities**
- Support implementation**
- Monitor implementation**



The role of Institutions

- Take responsibility for program development and delivery**
- Adapt course materials to local contexts**
- Grant awards earned by students**



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THANK YOU