



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

# Integration through Openness: Knowledge Communities in Research and Teaching

Annual Conference of the German Society  
of Media in Science  
September 7, 2011  
Dresden

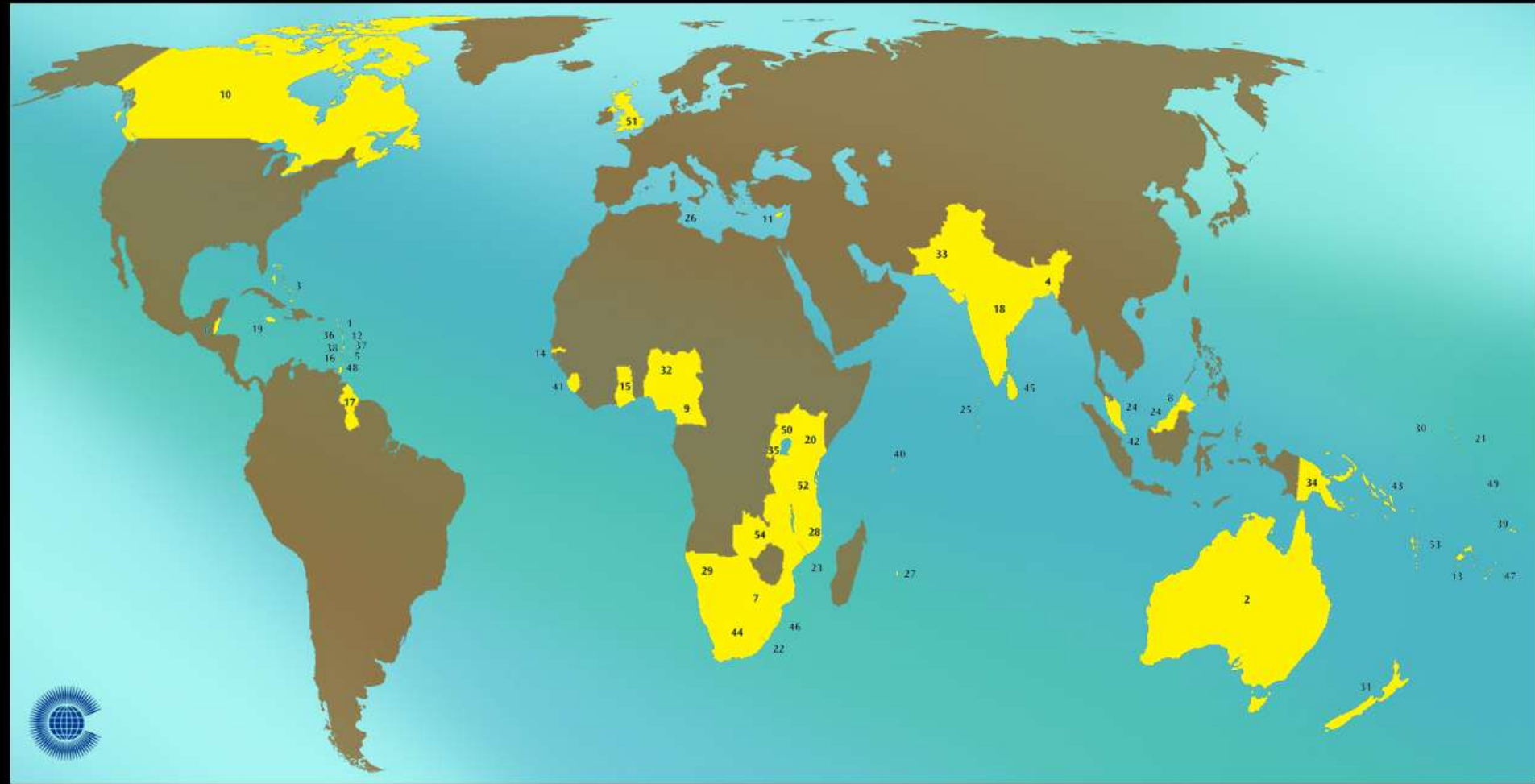
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COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Learning for Development

# The Commonwealth



**THE COMMONWEALTH COMPRISES 54 DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD**

Map Published by the Communications and Public Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2010.



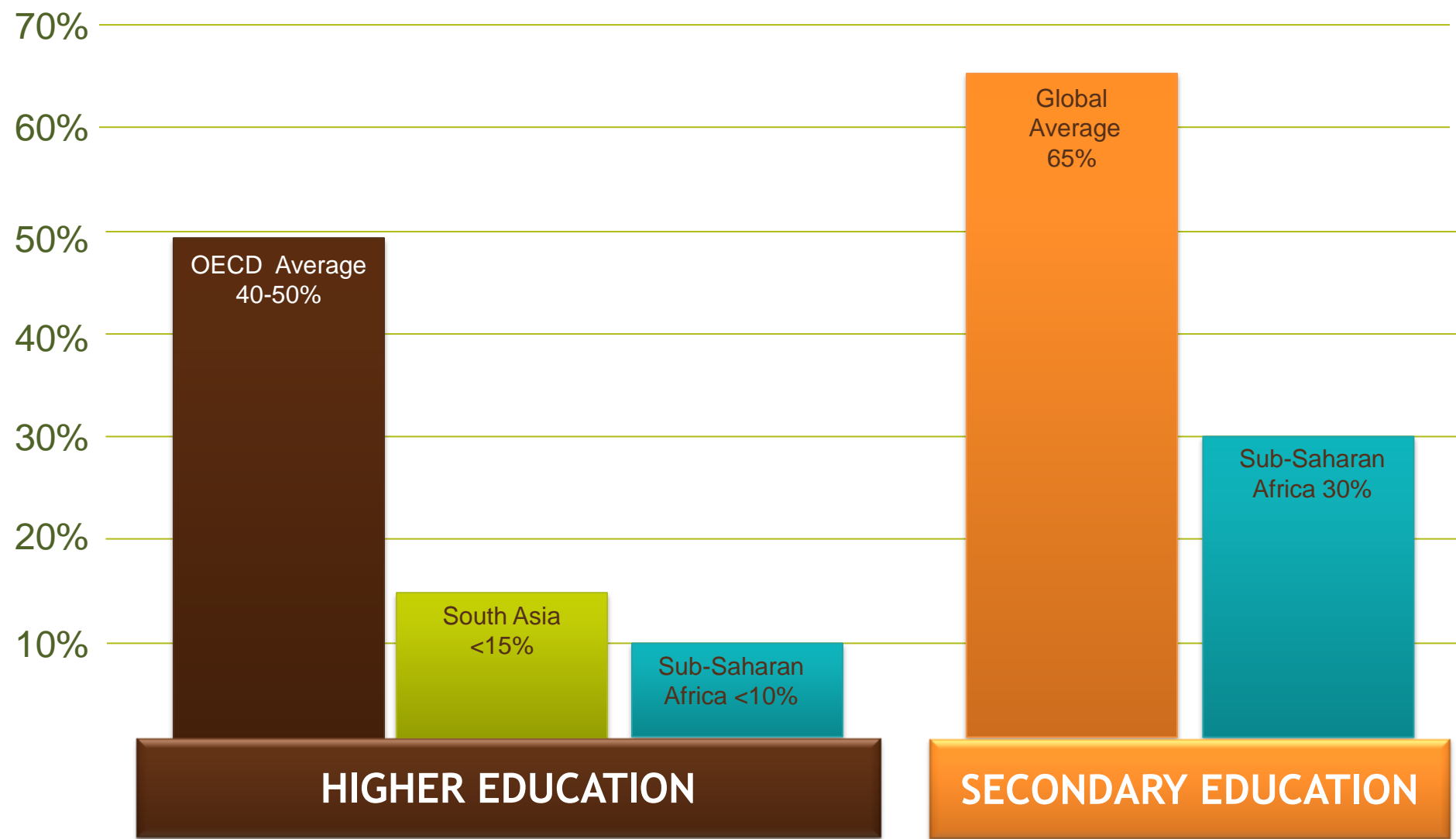
# The Commonwealth of Learning

## What is it for?

- To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use various technologies to improve and expand learning for development.



# Low-resource Settings: Access to Education





COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

# Opening up education in low-resource settings: the uses of Open Education Resources (OER)

Asha Kanwar, Vice President  
*Commonwealth of Learning*

September 6, 2011

# Plan

- Three Generations of Open Education
- Open Education Resources (OER) and its advantages
- Challenges and some initiatives to address them



# The Rise of Open Universities: First Generation







# FernUniversität in Hagen



# The Philosophy of ‘Open-ness’

- Open as to people,
- Open as to places,
- Open as to methods, and, finally,
- Open as to ideas
  - *Lord Crowther*



# ‘Open-ness’ in Practice

- No entry qualifications
- Credit banking
- Cafeteria approach for courses:



# Increased Use of Technology Mediation



Gyan Darshan Broadcast in Session



# Key Developments in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

- 1984: first electronic courses
- 1989: Internet
- 1991: WWW
- 1994: first online MBA (Athabasca)
- 1996: first web-based course delivery
- 1999: learning objects; LMS's





# Open Education: Second Generation



- Wider Use of Web and Online Technologies
- Interactivity: Key Aspect
- Much higher level of personalization through technology mediation
- Learning Objects

# Third Generation: OER



**NPTEL** NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON  
TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING  
A JOINT INITIATIVE OF IITs & IISc

FUNDED BY  
MHRD, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
UNDER NMEICT



IIT BOMBAY



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The main objective of NPTEL program is to enhance the quality of engineering education in the country by developing curriculum based video and web courses. This is being carried out by seven IITs and IISc Bangalore as a collaborative project. In the first phase of the project, supplementary content for 129 web courses in engineering/science and humanities have been developed. Each course contains materials that can be covered in depth in 40 or more lecture hours. In addition, 110 courses have been developed in video format, with each course comprising of approximately 40 or more one-hour lectures. In the next phase other premier institutions are also likely to participate in content creation.

The NPTEL project, receives its funding support through the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) since the year 2009. For the NMEICT Website please click here : [NMEICT, The Sakshat Mission.](#)

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## Whats New

- 11 June 2010 - [Launching NPTEL Phase 2](#)  
[View the titles and syllabus of courses proposed.](#)
- 16-Dec-2010 - Video Course on [Electromagnetic Fields](#) Updated 2 videos added.
- 26-Nov-2010 - Video Course on [Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing](#) Updated 12 videos added.
- 11-Nov-2010 - Video Course on [Power System Dynamics](#) Updated 14 videos added.
- [FAQ - How do Institutions & Individuals access NPTEL contents?](#)

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Branch	Web	Video
Basic Courses (Sem I & II)	16	20
Civil Engineering	24	19
Computer Science & Engineering	22	19
Electrical Engineering	16	25
Electronics & Communication Engineering	20	22
Mechanical Engineering	27	23
Ocean Engineering		3
Biotechnology		2
Mining		1
Metallurgy		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>135</b>

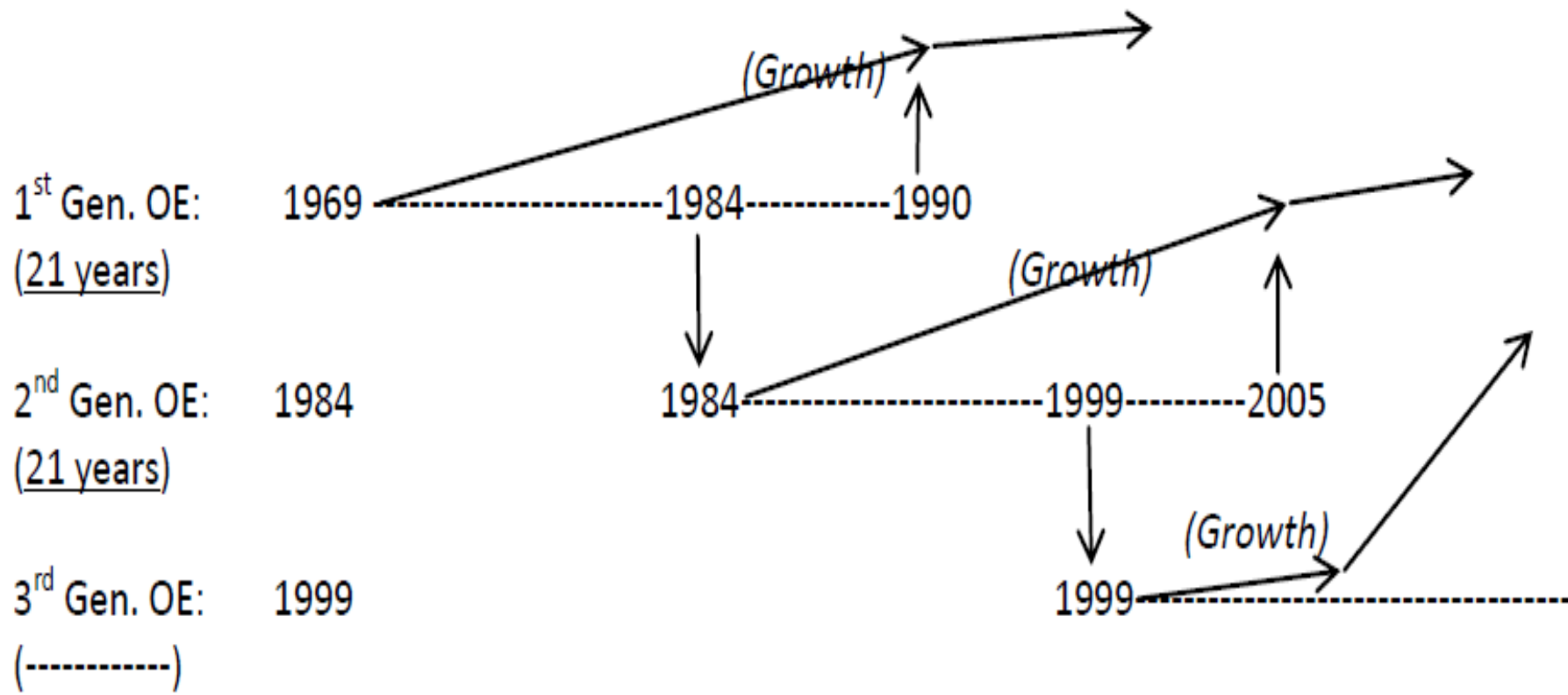


NPTEL Official Partners



ing for Development





B.N. Koul



# Open Educational Resources (OER)

- *OER are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits their free use and in some instances, re-purposing by others*

Atkins, Brown & Hammond, 2007



# What are Open Educational Resources (OER)?

Materials that are

- Free and freely available
- Suitable for all levels of education
- Reusable
- Digital or any medium





# Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences & Humanities

*‘Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society....Content and software tools must be openly accessible and compatible’*

October, 2003



# Advantages of using OERs

1. Increase availability
2. Improve quality
3. Cut costs
4. Foster collaboration
5. Build capacity
6. Opening up access
7. Preservation & dissemination of indigenous knowledge and global exchange



# 1. Availability: Malawi

- Bunda College of Agriculture
  - 102 page Communications Skills textbook
  - 75% OER
  - Adapted by adding contextually relevant materials, activities, assignments



## 2. Improving Quality



- 509 institutions in India
  - KSS Women’s Engineering College, Andhra Pradesh
  - Maya Devi Educational Foundation, Uttarakhand
  - Bhilai Institute of Technology, Chattisgarh



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### 3. Cutting costs: TESSA

- 20 teacher education programmes in 12 countries
- Materials available in 4 languages
- In 2010, 320,000 teachers benefited





# 4. Fostering Collaboration



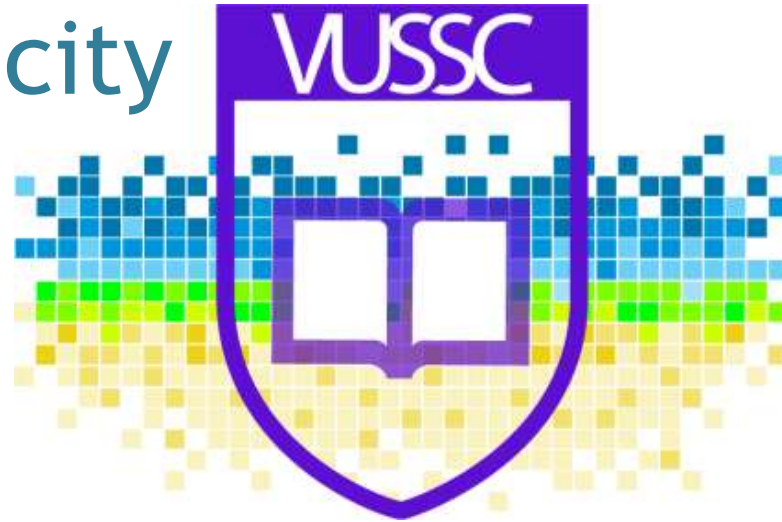
Ministries  
of Education

Schools

Teachers

Consultants

# 5. Build capacity



## The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth



The Commonwealth *of Learning*



## 6. Increasing Access: OERU

- Athabasca University
- Otago Polytechnic
- University of Southern Queensland






James  
Taylor




Students awarded credible degree or credential



Participating Institutions grant credit for courses



Open assessment from participating institutions



Open student support via "Academic Volunteers International"



Learners access courses based solely on OER



The OER university concept. Adapted from Taylor (2007)



# 7. Global exchange

## University of Ghana



The Balme Library of the University of Ghana

## Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology



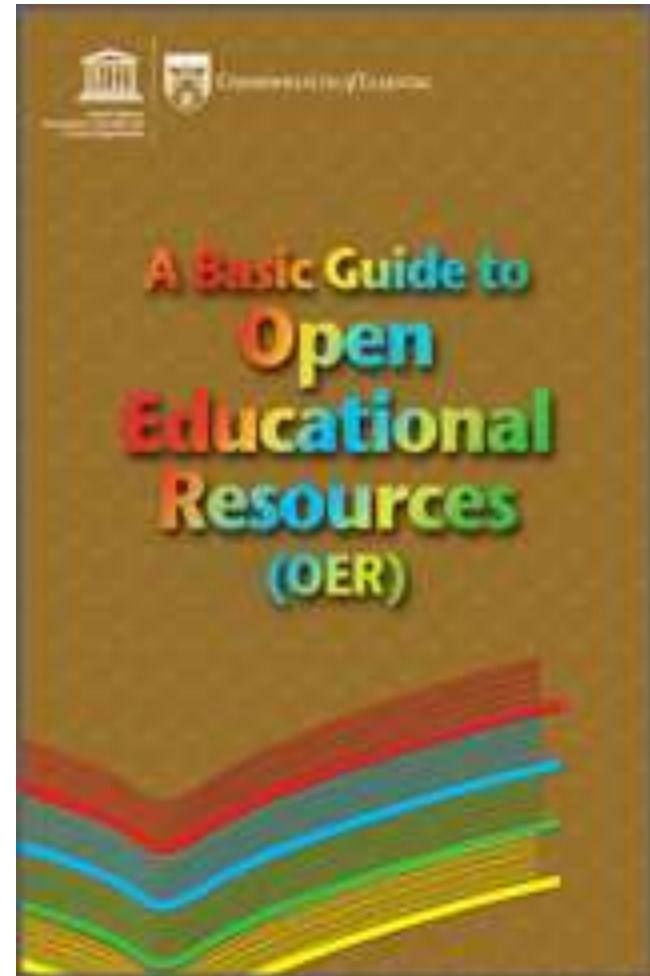


# Challenges

- Awareness at grassroots level
- From production to use
- Policy advocacy

# COL Resources

- Basic Guide to OER



# Policy Forum December 2010

## UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning

- Taking the Open Educational Resources (OER) beyond the OER Community: Policy and Capacity



# Conclusions of the Forum

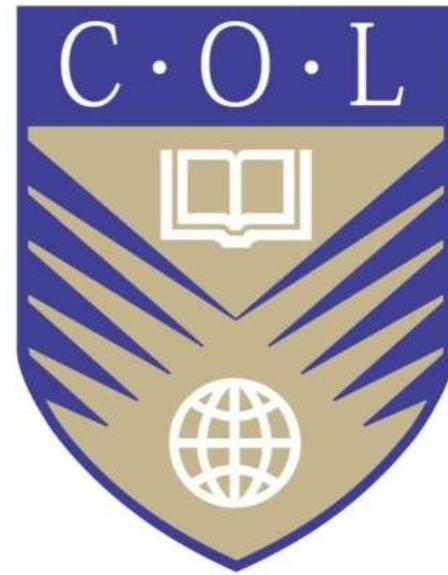
Governments and HEIs should:

- have policies to support the development and re-use of OER;
- develop capacity in OER; and
- support the improvement of national ICT infrastructures.

# International Guidelines for Open Educational Resources



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**THANK YOU**  
**WWW.COL.ORG**

