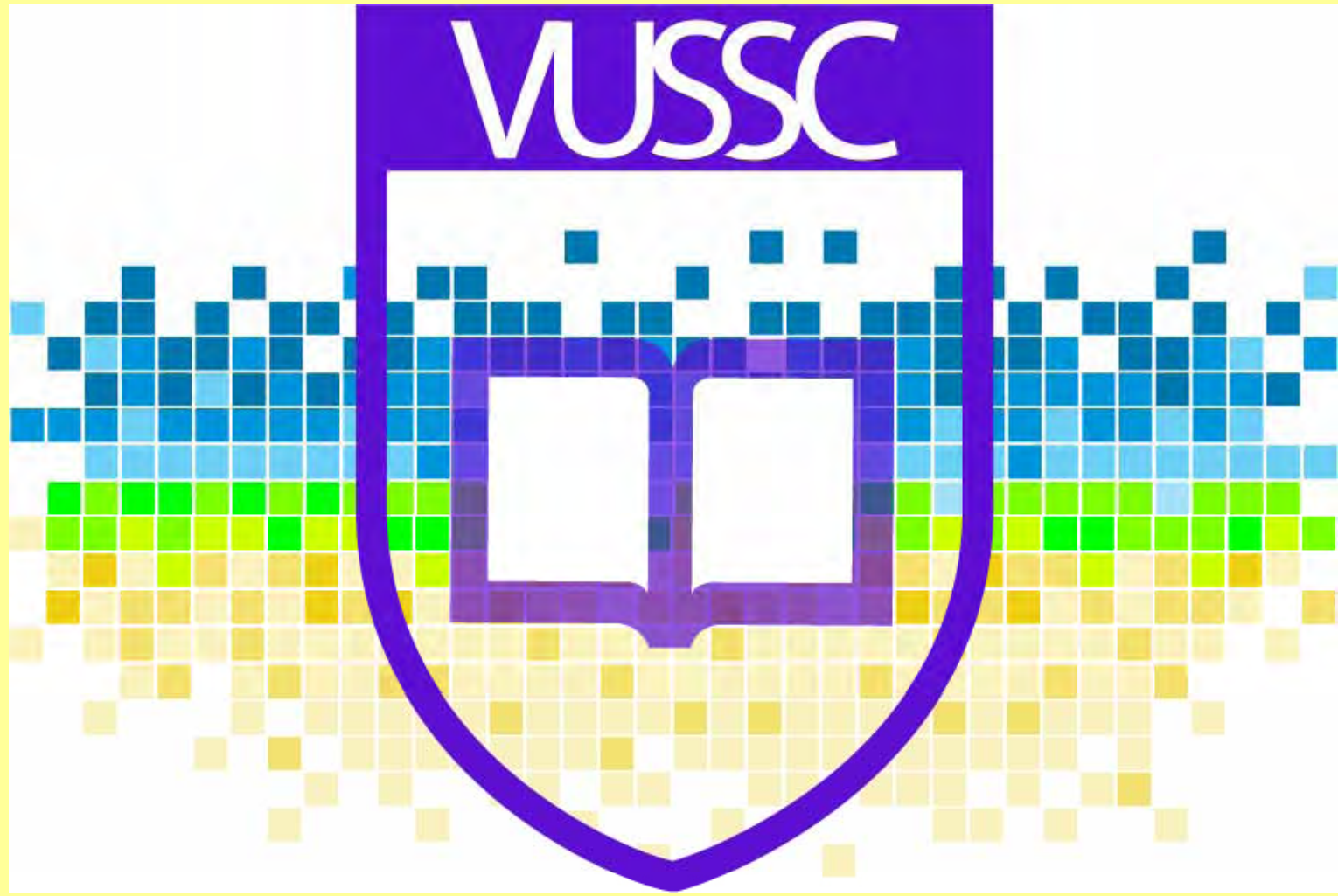


The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth





John
Lesperance



Paul
West



John
Daniel

Origin of VUSSC

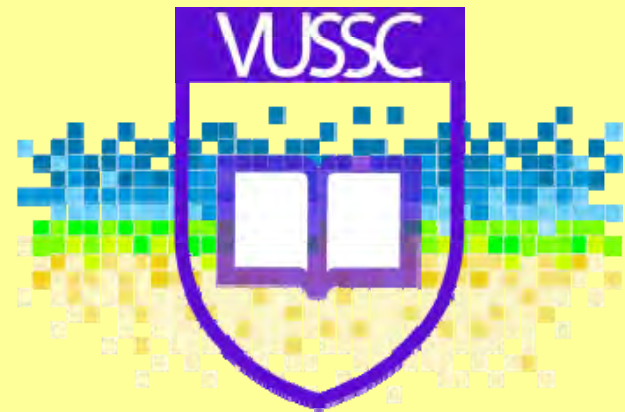


The triennial
Conference of
Commonwealth
Education Ministers
in 2000



What led to VUSSC

- Year 2000 strong focus on development
- Impact of the new communication technology
- The Halifax meeting
- The Seychelles meeting



The Changing Parameters

- The dotcom frenzy
- Donors mindset
- Open Education Resources (OERs)
- Multi media and ICT



The Bottom up Approach



List of priority areas

- *Hospitality and tourism management*
- *Small business development and entrepreneurship*
- *Professional development for the education & health sectors*
- *Life skills*
- *Construction management*
- *Fisheries management*
- *Disaster management*



Capacity Building

- Intensive face-to-face workshops
- Success of the Mauritius workshop
- Team leaders, coordinator meet in Vancouver
- 5 days orientation workshop
- Workshops take place in computer lab
- IT and instructional design training including BaseCamp



Mauritius Workshop



Participant's view

- *Improving ICT capacity [is part of the] national agenda; producing learner materials that are relevant to our needs and culture, but also sensitive to global perspectives. ODL allows us to improve education in our outer islands where there is little provision and to offer adult education for working individuals to acquire further qualifications in a way that is convenient for them.*

(Workshop participant, Seychelles Boot Camp, March 2008)



Funding

- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation



Six Workshops Held

- 2006 - Mauritius: Tourism and Entrepreneurship
- 2007 - Singapore: Professional Development for Education
- 2007 - Trinidad: Life Skills
- 2007 - Samoa: Disaster Management
- 2008 - The Seychelles: Fisheries
- 2008 - The Bahamas: Construction



Upcoming Workshops

- 2009 - Samoa: Port Management
- 2010 - Maldives: Agriculture and Agro Industry



Participant's view

- *This kind of collaboration is a powerful medium to use to develop oneself and country. It is about sharing resources in knowledge and skills, so makes a change for the better, in the life of someone who needs it . . . I have come to see and learn in my lifetime . . . that access to information is a powerful tool. . . now, how to disseminate that information in a structured manner so that it is used in a positive way and empowers individuals for the better, is to me, part of what VUSSC is all about!*
(Workshop participant, Samoa Bootcamp, November 2007)



Copyright

All rights reserved

Creative Commons:

Attribution

Share-Alike

No Derivatives

Non-Commercial

Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

You are free:

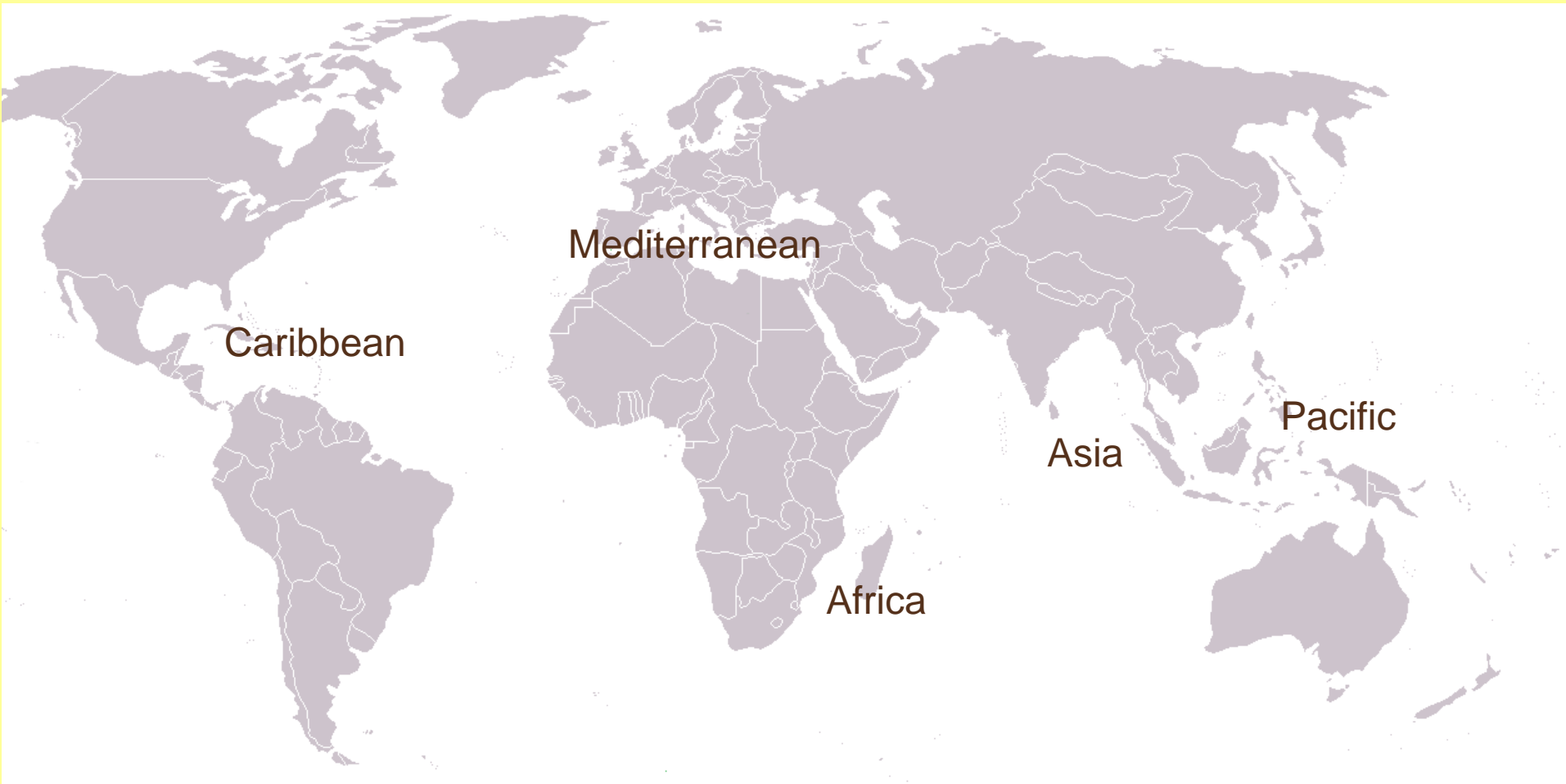
-  **to Share** — to copy, distribute and transmit the work
-  **to Remix** — to adapt the work

Under the following conditions:

-  **Attribution.** You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).
-  **Noncommercial.** You may not use this work for commercial purposes.
-  **Share Alike.** If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same or similar license to this one.

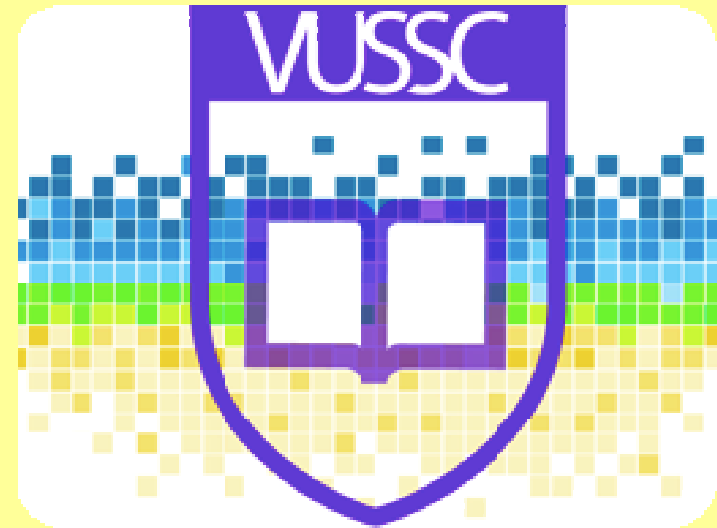
• For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work. The best way to do this is with a link to this web page.

32 Small States involved by 2009



Transnational Qualifications Framework

- Assisted by the South African Qualifications Authority
- 10 level framework
- Translation instrument
- www.vussc.info
- Nationally accredited courses registered on VUSSC website



VUSSC Achievements

- New model of collaboration
- Strengthening of national institutions
 - ICT skills development
 - ODL
 - ID template
 - Online collaboration through BaseCamp
- VUSSC co-branded courses
- VUSSC Management Committee
- 17th Conference of Education Ministers





The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth



**Dr Emma Kruse Vaai (Samoa)
Chair, VUSSC Management Committee**



Thank You

www.vussc.info

www.col.org/speeches

