

CONNECTIONS



LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



President Danny Faure (left) and Mr Marc Prensky (right) deliver keynote addresses on day two.

Keynote speakers focus on empowering youth through education

The second day of the ninth Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF9) began with a speech delivered by His Excellency Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles. In his address entitled, 'Empowered Youth: Our Common Wealth,' President Faure spoke of how youth are faced with issues stemming from disparities between the "haves" and "have nots," as well as conflict and climate change. President Faure posed the question, "How can we ensure that those born today have a better and safer world tomorrow? And how can we empower youth to become agents of change – for peace, security, justice, climate resilience and sustainable development for all?" President Faure then delved into what are known as the three A's: Aspiration, Access, and Achievement, as his explanation of how education can help tackle these global challenges.

Mr Marc Prensky, Founder and Executive Director, The Global Future Education Foundation and Institute, was a highlight of the afternoon programme, with his keynote address, 'What the World Needs from Education.' Mr Prensky, who coined the term, "digital native," opened with a discussion on how our understanding of what a "good education" is and what "being educated" means is changing rapidly in the context of the fourth industrial revolution. He then asked the audience to consider, "What does the world need from education?" and "What do our kids need from their education?" Mr Prensky described himself as an optimist about the future of education and emphasised that the focus should not only be on lifelong learning, but also on lifelong accomplishment. What kids really want and need, Mr Prensky said, "is the power to affect their world."

“As policy makers, we need to foster inclusive educational environments that reach excluded and marginalised groups and respect the diverse needs of young people.”

President Danny Faure



PARALLEL SESSIONS

Thought leaders from across the Commonwealth and beyond presented during the parallel sessions on day two. Sessions were divided into the four forum sub-themes: **Employability, Equity and Inclusion, Opening Up Education, and Technology.**

Topics ranged from innovative strategies that increase learners' chances of success, to the significance of technology and digitisation in pedagogical practice, to learning in the workplace and workplace-relevant pedagogies, and how inclusive and lifelong learning should cater to global population demographics and dynamics.



Half a century of history

This year The Open University celebrates its 50th birthday. With its mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas, the OU has widened access to higher education on a scale previously unimaginable. Since receiving our Royal Charter in April 1969, more than two million people have studied with the OU, 200,000 of those here in Scotland.





Who is talking about PCF9?



Everyone! #PCF9 was trending number one in Edinburgh on opening day. Join in on the conversation... Use **#PCF9** to share your photos & experiences at the forum.

Paul Prinsloo @14prinsp · 16h
Brick and mortar institutions and educational delivery simply cannot address the huge challenge of providing access to quality education **#pcf9** We have to think differently/courageously

Leigh-Anne Perryman @laperryman · 14h
Lord Putnam laments continued view of education as 'being done to' in his **#PCF9** Asa Briggs Memorial Lecture. **#OUH880** students -this is where critical pedagogy & critical digital pedagogy (hybridpedagogy.org/critical-digit...) has value in opening up equal dialogue between educators & learners

Rob Farrow @philosopher1978 · 15h
Hearing about how Boko Haram jihadists are taking Islamic Studies at National Open University of Nigeria, offering a (free, open) route to countering propaganda and brainwashing through open education **#pcf9**

Alex Grech @AlexGrech · 15h
I keep thinking that being an 'outsider' in academia at this 'moment of crisis' is vital if education is to remain relevant to those it is meant to empower **#PCF9** @3CLMT

Josie Fraser @JosieAfraser · 16h
Things I didn't know before **#PCF9**: The number of hungry people in the world has increased (ev yr last 3 years). More people are in slavery than at any time in history. Inspired by @OpenUniversity work on these problems... (1/2)

Jima Ngei @jimangei · 14h
"We see a future where people will be amplified not replaced by machines..so we need to teach skills like problem-finding and creative thinking..so people are skilled for the jobs of the future" @joshimohit_ygl **#pcf9** #Edinburgh

Tom Bartram @TomBartram85 · 15h
The common thread between all Open Universities speaking this morning at **#PCF9** is an unwavering commitment to social justice and access to education for all which transforms lives. Prisoner education a particular highlight. **#proud** @NounNigeria @OfficialIGNOU @OpenUniversity

Dr. Indira Koneru @indirakoneru · 7h
"A country that fails to value its teachers, fails to value its future." @DPuttnam @COL4D **#PCF9**

COL Chairs collaborate

The COL Chairs met with Dr Kirk Perris, COL's Adviser: Education, during the forum to discuss their initiatives in research and thought leadership. The premise of the meeting was to engage more collaboratively given the synergies in their work, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence, OER, and re-conceptualising teaching practice in relation to the ubiquity of networked technologies.



AROUND THE FORUM



Pictured (left to right): Dr Kirk Perris, Professor Mohamed Ally, Professor Mpine Makoe, Professor Tadinada Venkata Prabhakar.





PCF9 Publications Launch

Edinburgh, Scotland 2019

COL Publications Launch

COL's Publications Launch introduced PCF9 delegates to some of the organisation's latest research and resources on the evening of 10 September. Professor Asha Kanwar, COL President and CEO, gave an opening address and noted that all COL publications are released under an open licence and have relevance and reach beyond the Commonwealth. Professor Kanwar then invited her colleagues to present these highly relevant books, reports, toolkits and more. To access these resources, visit our open access repository, Oasis: <http://oasis.col.org>.



“Colleagues identify emerging areas and we edit, write, commission research or guides or policy briefs that will be useful to our stakeholders.”

Professor Asha Kanwar

- *Using ICTs and Blended Learning in Transforming TVET*
- *Graduate Diploma in Open School Operation and Management Booklet*
- *Referencing Tool: Transnational Qualifications Framework of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth*
- *Open Universities in the Commonwealth: At a Glance*
- *Open Educational Resources: Global Report 2017*
- *Boys' Underperformance in Education: Revisiting the Issue in the Commonwealth*
- *Doctoral Study and Research Degrees: Online and Distance Programmes*
- *Engineering Education: Online and Distance Programmes*
- *Status of Research and Engineering Programmes Offered Online*
- *Gender and ICT: Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review*
- *Guide to Blended Learning*
- *Quality Assurance: Good Practices in ODL in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- *Knowledge Series: Pedagogical Innovations for Technology-Enabled Learning*
- *Knowledge Series: Designing & Implementing Micro-Credentials: A Guide for Practitioners*
- *GIRLS Inspire: Preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) Through Open, Distance and Technology-Based Education – Final Report*
- *Gender Scorecard 2.0 – Instructions and Templates*
- *A Guide to Integrating Employability in Higher Education Institutions: The Commonwealth of Learning's Employability Model*
- *Journal of Learning for Development*
- *A Blueprint and Toolkit for School-Based Teacher Development: Secondary*

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for videos, photos, links to papers and more.

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Hashtag: #pcf9

instagram.com/commonwealthoflearning/

Connect with the Commonwealth of Learning

Stay up to date on all the latest news, even after PCF9 comes to an end.

COL publishes its newsletter three times a year (March, July and November). Every issue includes all the major highlights from each of COL's initiatives, as well as feature pieces from guest contributors, a thoughtful analysis of current tech trends, and many more stories and photos you don't want to miss.

The upcoming November issue will include never-before-seen moments from PCF9. Email info@col.org to put your name on the mailing list or visit col.org to sign up for email updates.



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