



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

1989

*Distance Education for
Human Resource Development
in Mauritius:
The Way Forward*

Public Lecture

11 January 2006

Mauritius

OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING IN SMALL STATES: WHICH MODELS?

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Mr Armoogum Parsuramen

Minister of Education

Mr Armoogum Parsuramen



Minister of Education

“This report is about distance education – sometimes called open learning. What, it may fairly be asked, can either do for Mauritius? The country is a 2000 sq. km. island with no distances. Its examination-oriented education system is tightly closed.”

Daniel, 1989

“We admire the patient manner in which Mauritians let external consultants take up their time, first to respond to questions in an interview and then to put out any fires that the consultant’s report may light. As one more in a long line of consultants to education in Mauritius we could not help thinking that the country may be making excessive use of this mechanism. A succession of consultants’ reports creates at least uncertainty, if not confusion. Furthermore, waiting for the next consultant’s report can become a substitute for local decision making and action.”

Daniel, 1989

PLAN

- **Distance Education since 1989**

What has changed / not changed?

- **Models for ODL in Small States**
- **Virtual University for Small States
of the Commonwealth**
- **What next?**

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Virtual education

Open learning

Online learning

e-learning

mLearning

Blended learning

Distributed education

Flexible learning

The Wide Umbrella of ODL

Virtual education

Open learning

Online learning

e-learning

mLearning

Blended learning

Distributed education

Flexible learning

Two types of
learning activities:

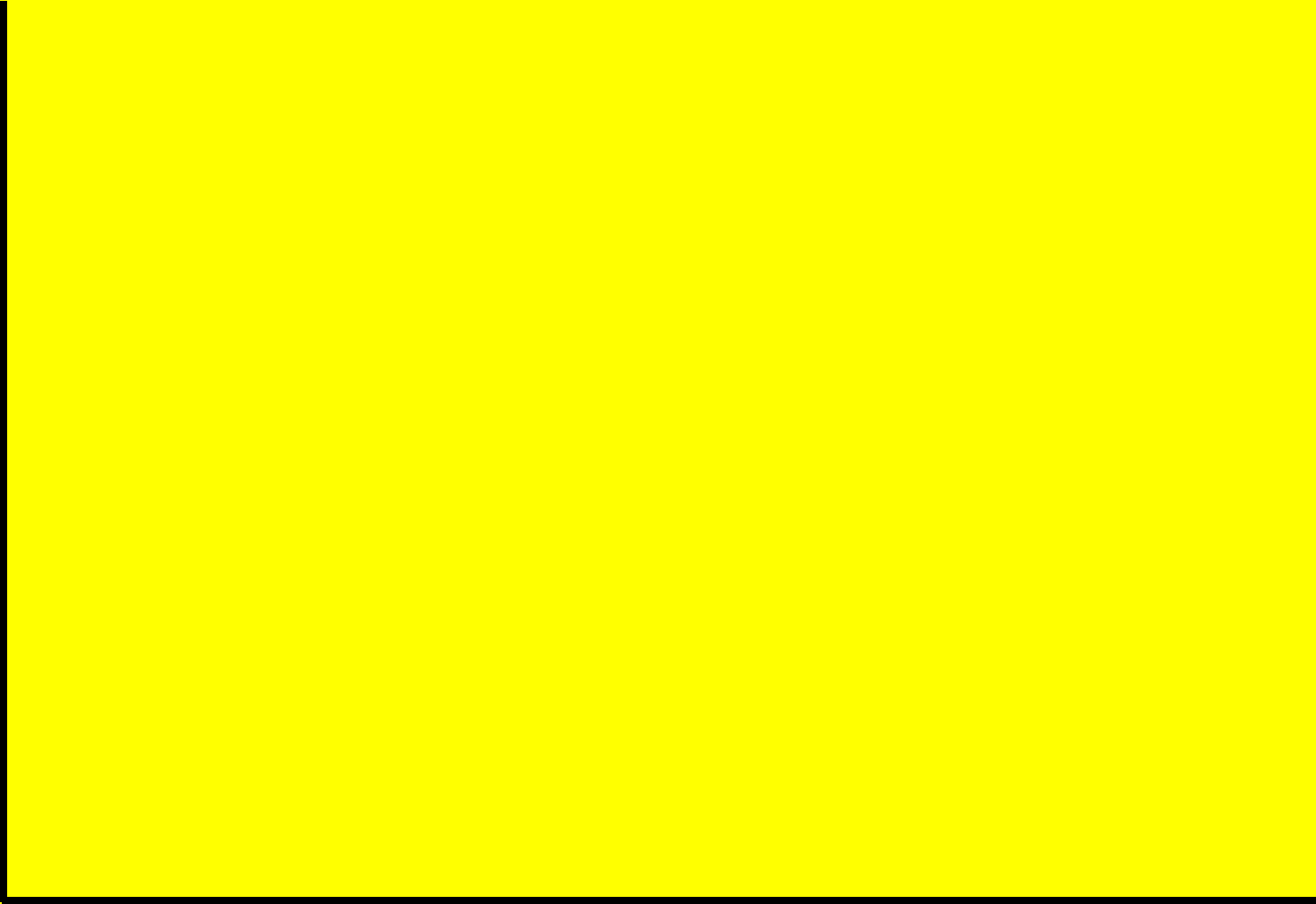
INDEPENDENT

Two types of
learning activities:

INDEPENDENT

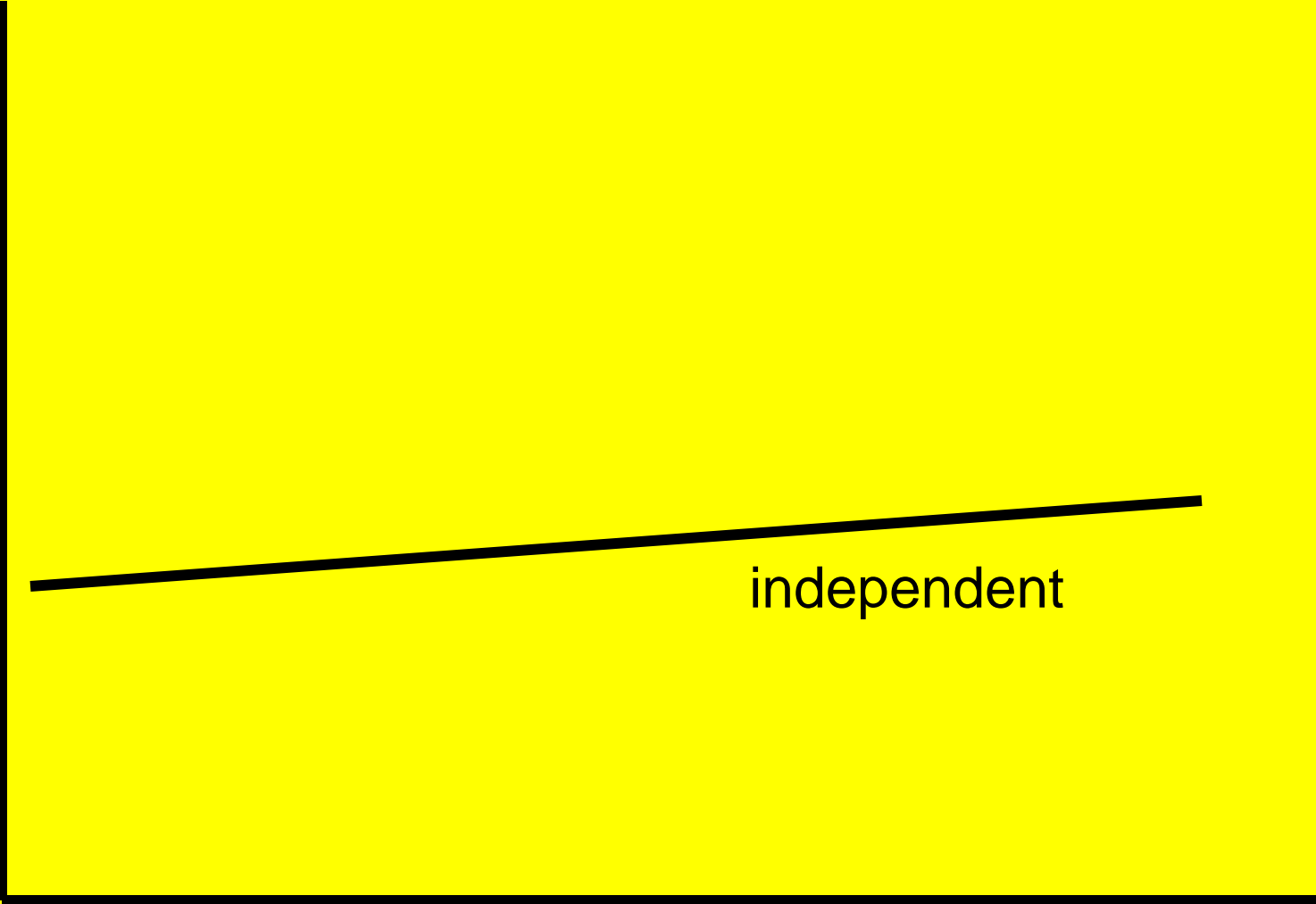
INTERACTIVE

Total cost



Number of students

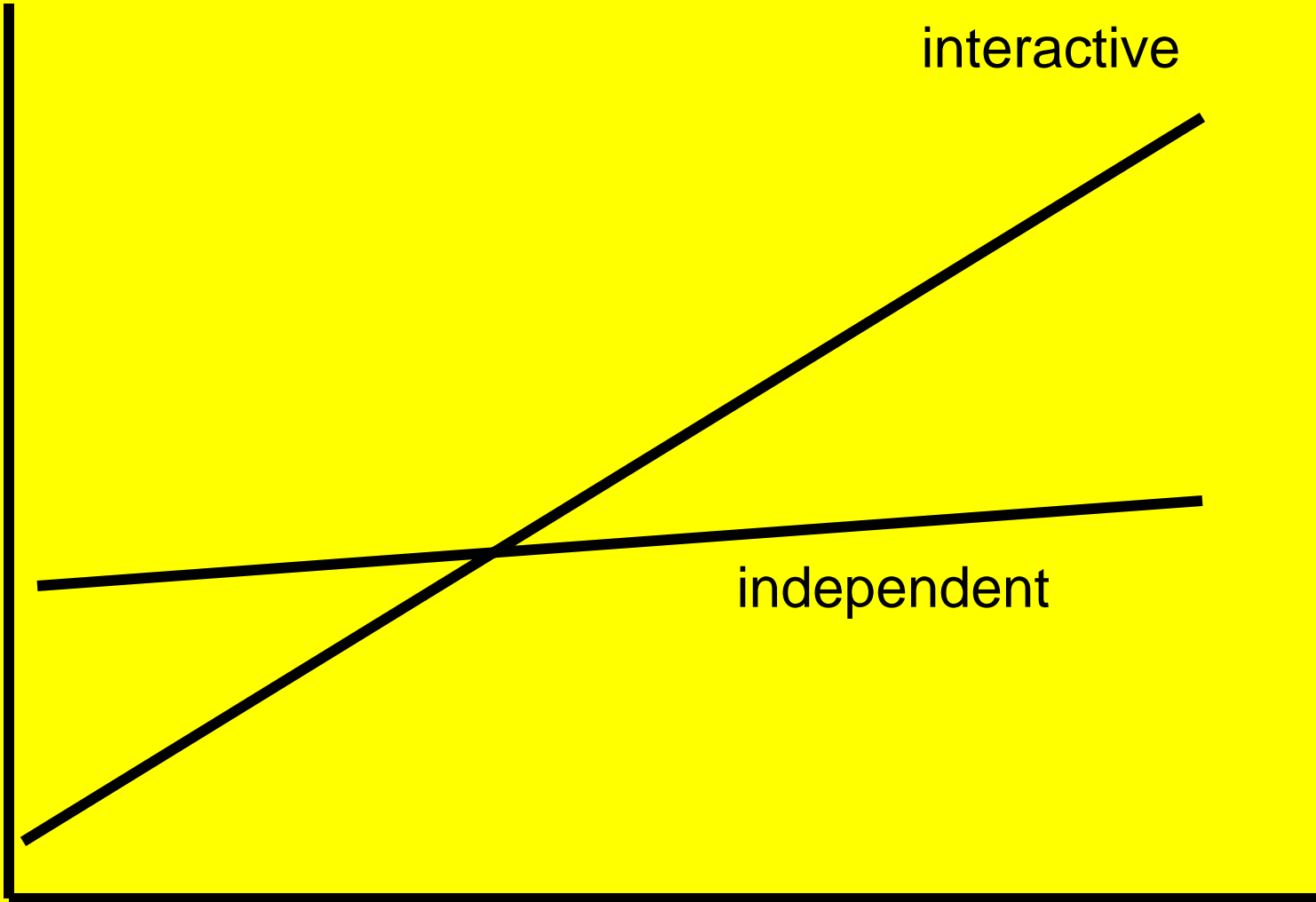
Total cost



independent

Number of students

Total cost

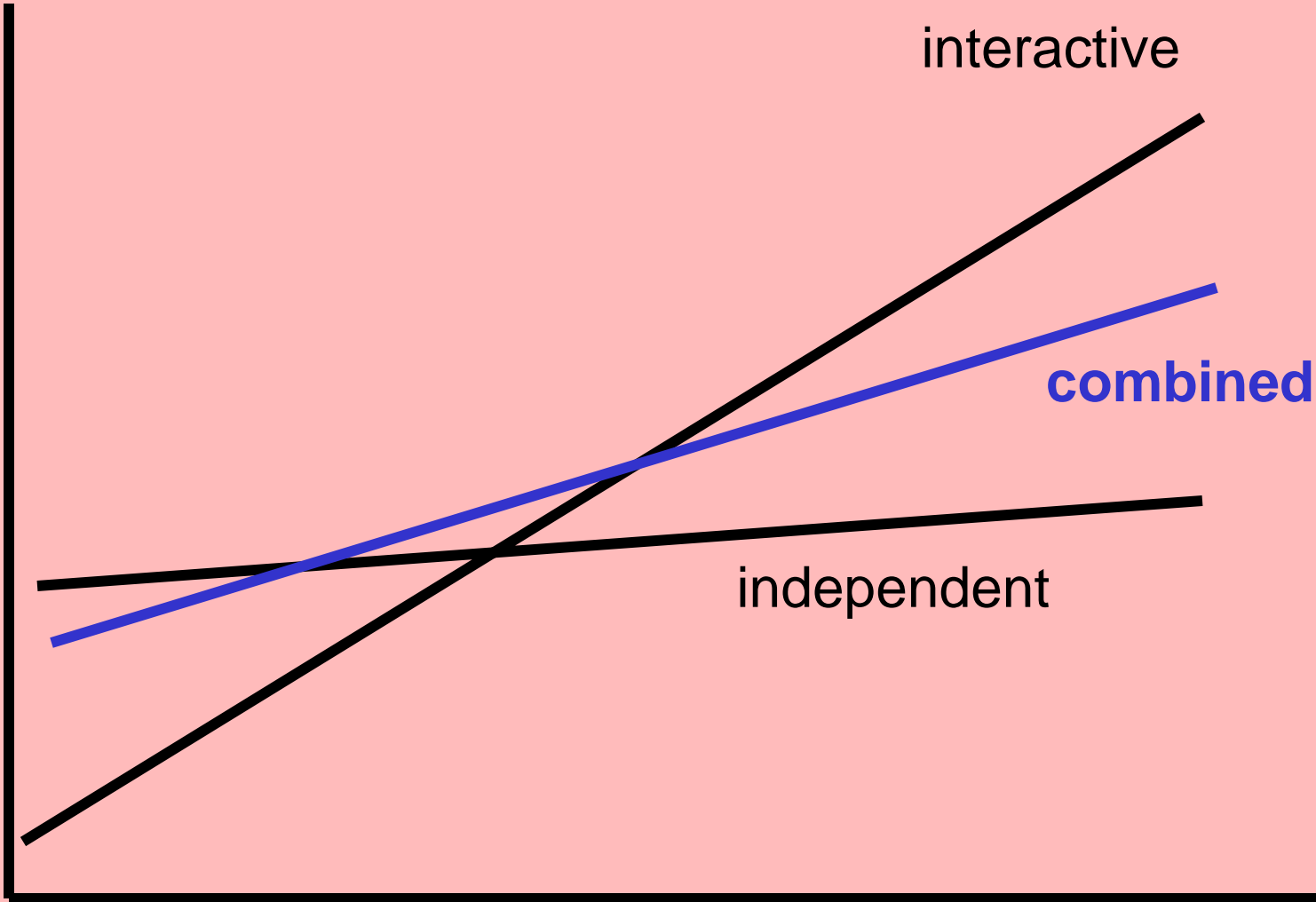


interactive

independent

Number of students

Total cost



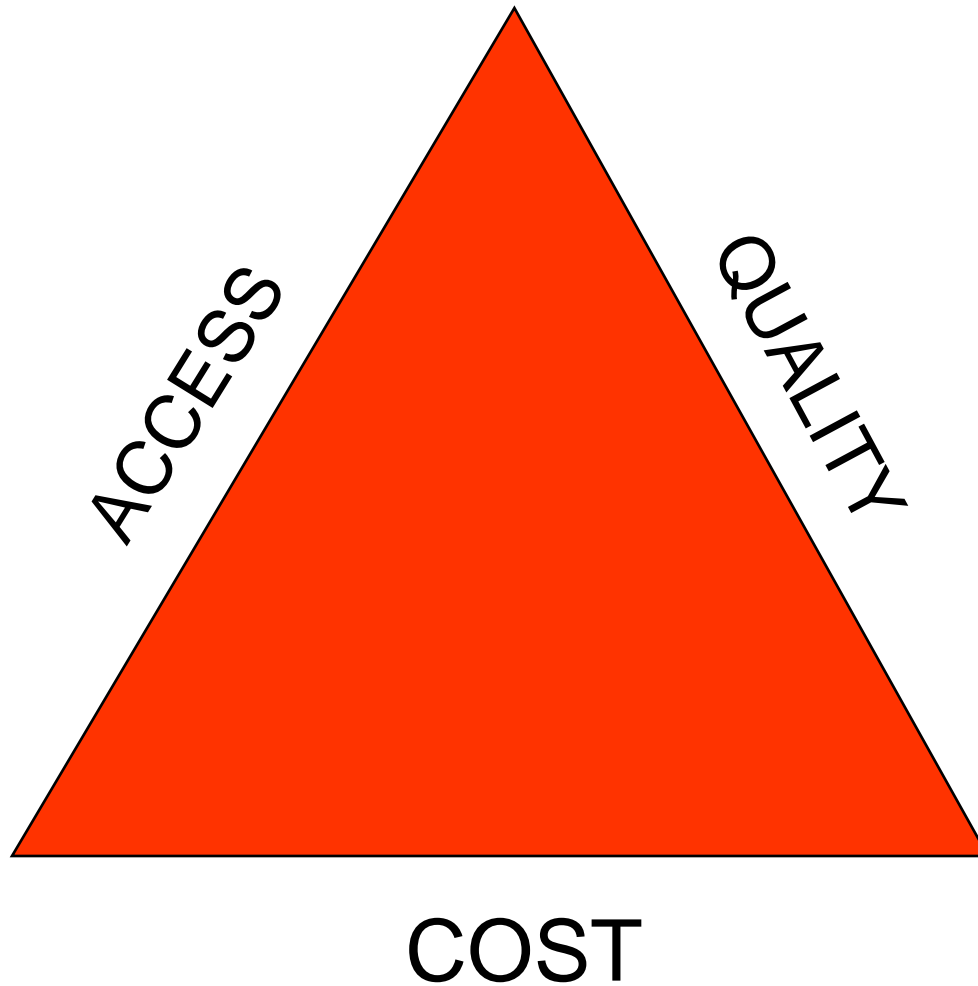
interactive

combined

independent

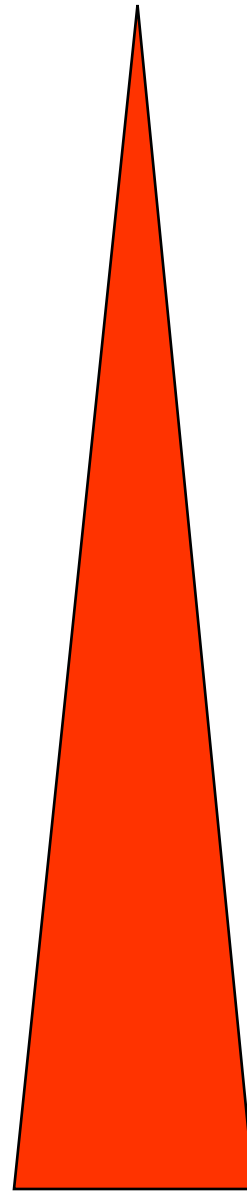
Number of students

The Iron Triangle



ACCESS

QUALITY



COST

BRITAIN'S TOP NINE UNIVERSITIES

Quality Rankings of Teaching

based on all subject assessments 1995-2003
(*Sunday Times University Guide 2003*)

1	CAMBRIDGE	96%
2	LOUGHBOROUGH	95%
3=	LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS	88%
3=	YORK	88%
5	<u>THE OPEN UNIVERSITY</u>	87%
6	OXFORD	86%
7	IMPERIAL COLLEGE	82%
8	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	77%
9	ESSEX	77%

The Virtual University
for
Small States
of the
Commonwealth

Proposed by Ministers from Small States at the
14th Conference of Commonwealth Ministers of
Education, Halifax, Canada, 2000

Changing Technology

- Connectivity

Changing Technology

- Connectivity
- Open source software

Changing Technology

- Connectivity
- Open source software
- Easy storage

Changing Technology

- Connectivity
- Open source software
- Easy storage
- Mobiles

What does this do?

- Google

What does this do?

- Google
- Instant communication

What does this do?

- Google
- Instant communication
- Reproduction, distribution

What does this do?

- Google
- Instant communication
- Reproduction, distribution
- Mobility

What does this do?

- Google
- Instant communication
- Reproduction, distribution
- Mobility
- Groups

SO WHAT?

- Helps the Virtual U of SSC
- Heralds the 21st century university

The 21st Century University

may be

based on

OPEN LEARNING

“modern open learning can
create the collaborative
intellectual spaces – virtual
and real – that may define
the university of the 21st
century”

The Virtual University

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14th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers

Halifax, Nova Scotia – November 2000

- The year of DEVELOPMENT
(Millennium Declaration; Dakar Forum on EFA)

14th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers

Halifax, Nova Scotia – November 2000

- The year of DEVELOPMENT
(Millennium Declaration; Dakar Forum on EFA)
- The height of the dotcom frenzy



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

BUILD

The Virtual University

for

Small States

of the

Commonwealth

FROM THE BOTTOM UP

The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

WHAT?

A network of collaboration

NOT

a new institution and brand

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WHAT?

A network of collaboration

NOT

a new institution and brand

WHERE?

Wherever countries collaborate in the
development of learning objects.

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HOW?

To develop collaboratively what might be difficult for any one state to do by itself

TOPICS of COMMON INTEREST:

- * Professional development: Education & Health
- * Tourism
- * Business management, entrepreneurship
- * Skills for Youth
- * How to do eLearning

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“A special opportunity to
develop expertise in
online or eLearning”

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USEFUL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

- **Better connectivity**
- **Open Educational Resources**

The most promising innovation

OPEN EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES (OERs)

=

open course content, open
source software and tools

The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

1. Identify participants and objectives
2. Identify common aims and resources
3. Develop content and systems
4. Implement with learners

WHAT NEXT
FOR
MAURITIUS?

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SUCCESSSES IN MAURITIUS

- ODL working well

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- Collaboration effective

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- Collaboration effective
- Proactive Government

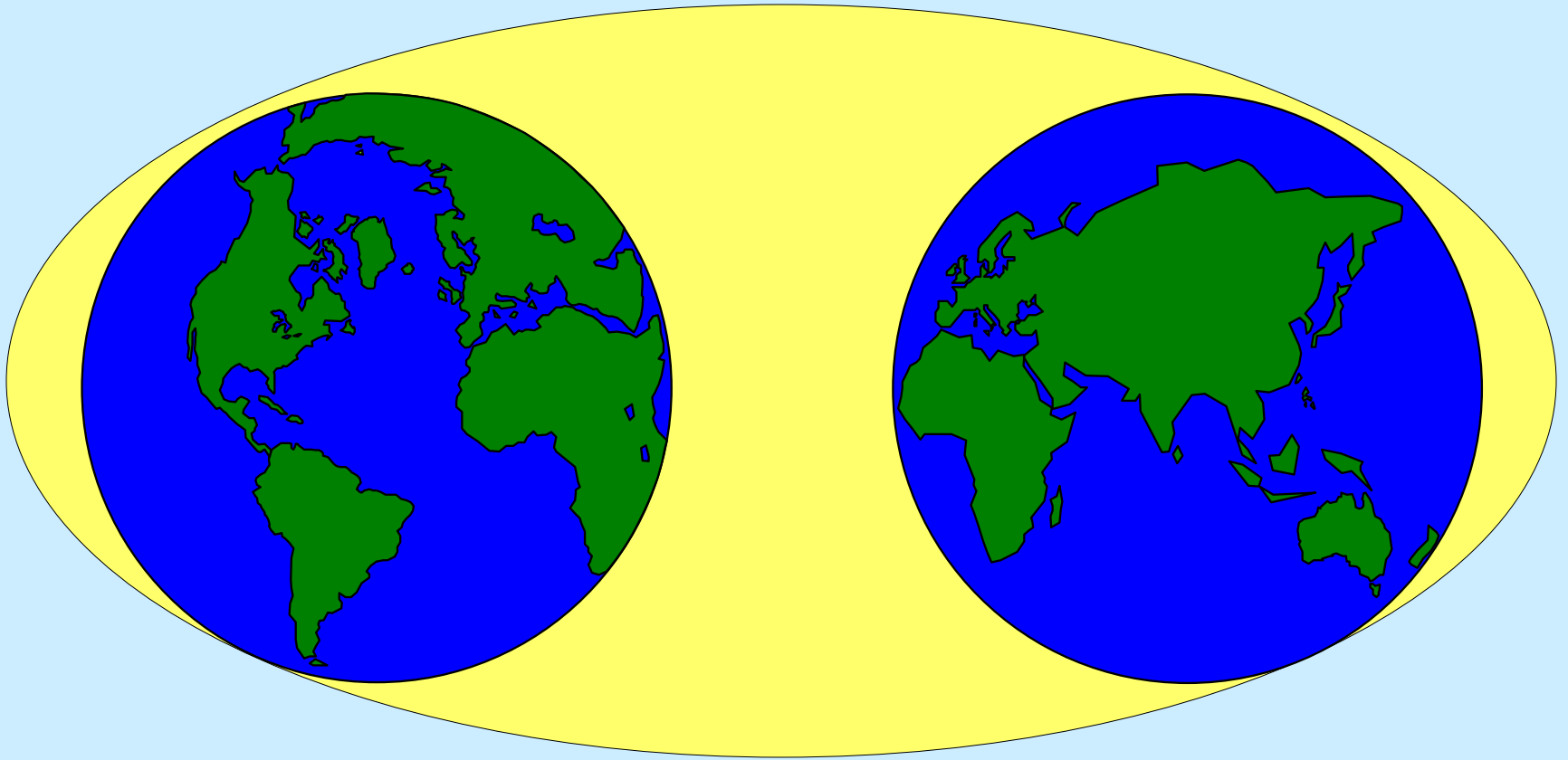
SUCCESSSES IN MAURITIUS

- ODL working well
- Collaboration effective
- Proactive Government
- Open to the future

SUCCESSSES IN MAURITIUS

- Sharing with other countries

Partnerships and collaboration (South-South)



“your model for open and distance learning may transform your institutions in ways that position Mauritius well for the new learning environment of the 21st century”

THANK
YOU!