

Closing Remarks: PCF8

30 November 2016

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dr Linda Sissons
Chair, Board of Governors, Commonwealth of Learning (COL)



The world is undergoing a dramatic shift. Technology is changing how we live, work and play.

The speakers at this conference have challenged us to ensure that education not only keeps pace with change but leads change.

Leadership includes providing access to education for the world's marginalized people such as the poor, disabled, and those forced to leave school.

No one should be invisible; no one should be left behind.

Suggestions for change include

- Plan for tomorrow's technology not simply today's,
- Increase flexibility and paths to learning,
- Integrate experiential learning,
- Share resources and keep costs low, and
- Create new industry-based credentials that lead to jobs.

Through innovation we can embrace the potential of open, online and flexible learning to help achieve sustainable development.

I am encouraged by the work of The Pacific Centre for Flexible and Open Learning for Development. This network of networks is a good example of a regional initiative working toward sustainable development. It enables resource and expertise sharing for skills development, employment, quality education, and use of technologies.

I would like to commend our honourable guests who attended the Minister's Roundtable. Their dedication to improving education and commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals shows courage, compassion, and a deep regard for providing access to quality learning.

The KL Declaration is the highlight of this conference and I am pleased to see the strong support and resolve of those present for furthering the role of open and distance learning to expand opportunities for learners.

With your help we will continue to make the world a better place for all.