

Globalisation and Education in Small States: Opportunities and Challenges



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Plan

Expanding HE in Small States

The Virtual University for Small
States of the Commonwealth

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

UNESCO

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Theme: Internationalisation, Regionalisation and Globalisation

Expanding Tertiary Education in Small States in an Economic Crisis: The Role of Collaboration

Sir John Daniel

Commonwealth of Learning



Expanding Tertiary Education in Small States in an Economic Crisis: The Role of Collaboration

- Some general principles
- The role of collaboration

Example of the VUSSC



危机

Danger

+

Opportunity

CRISIS

- Rationalisation
- Harmonisation
- Conceptualisation

Badri N Koul

An example of the challenge...



An example of the challenge...



“tertiary education in Seychelles is a major drain on its economy as many Seychellois are sent abroad, at considerable expense, for higher education and training since Seychelles does not have a university”

Ministry of Education, 2006

Potential clientele (figures rounded)

National population: < 100,000

School leavers: < 2,000 annually

University bound: < 800 annually

Adult students: ~ 200 new annually

$800 + 200 = 1,000 \times 4 = \mathbf{4,000}$

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BUT in a perspective of lifelong learning:

Population aged 15-44:

$\sim 50,000 \times 0.25 = \mathbf{12,500}$

The need to aggregate...

- Demand:

 - Initial tertiary; professional development;
L³; TVET

- Levels:

 - Upper secondary; community college;
undergraduate; graduate; professional

- Institutions:

 - All tertiary under one umbrella

- Modes:

 - Face-2-Face; distance; eLearning; abroad

The need to aggregate...

- Staff:

 - Full-time; part-time; visiting; distance

- Partnerships:

 - Holistic approach aimed at cost-cutting

- Small States' efforts:

 - Politically (e.g. domestic fees for overseas)

 - Courseware development (e.g. VUSSC)

 - Training

NOT:

Modern rhetoric with Ancient mindset

BUT

Technology driven through and through...

Electronic:

Administration and finance

Course and programme materials

Teaching/learning

Assessment



What is the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth?



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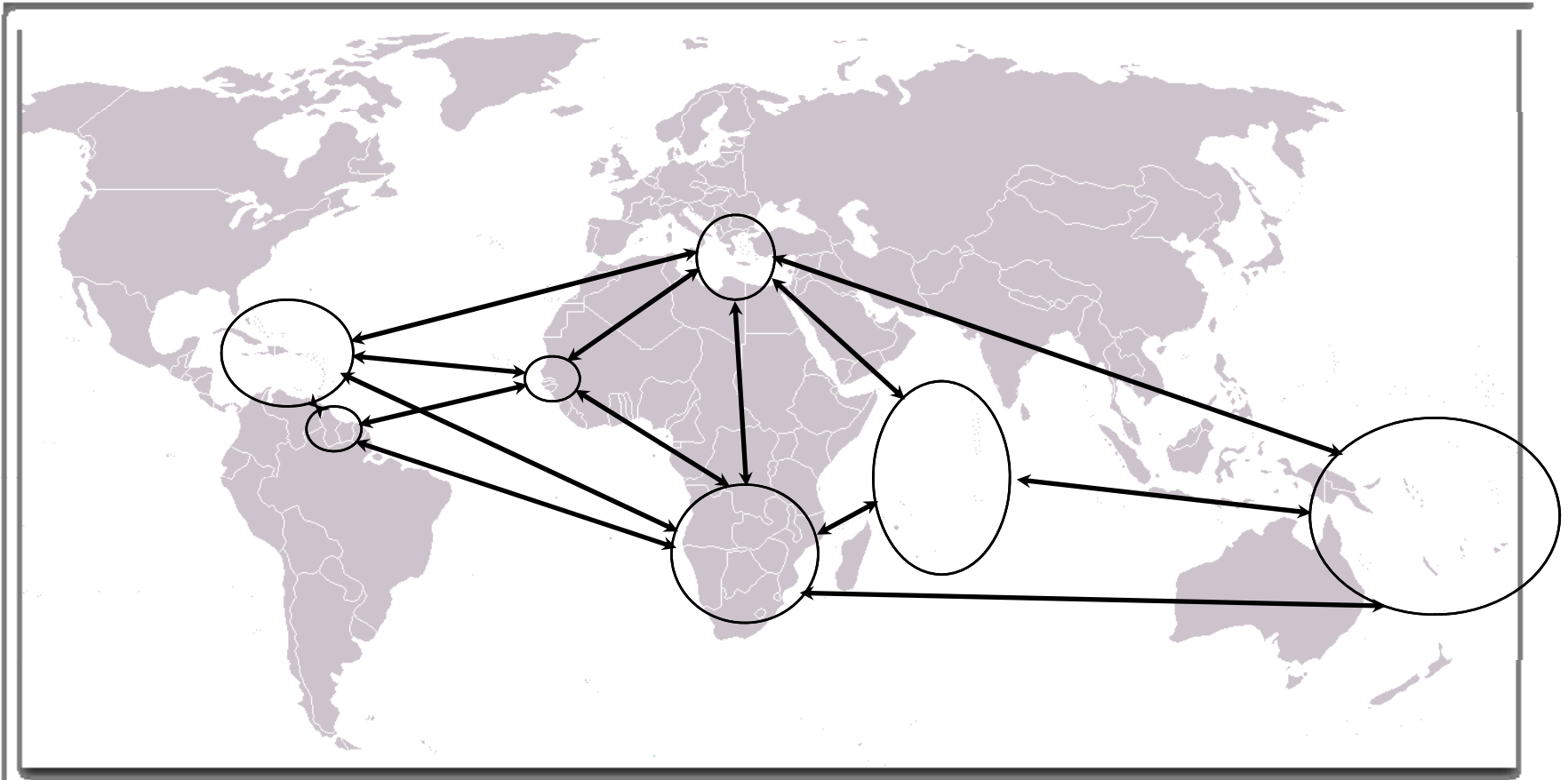


The Commonwealth



The Small States





The Commonwealth Small States
spread across the globe

Features of Small States

- Fragile economies
- High transport costs
- Prone to natural disasters

www.col.org/speeches



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Why?



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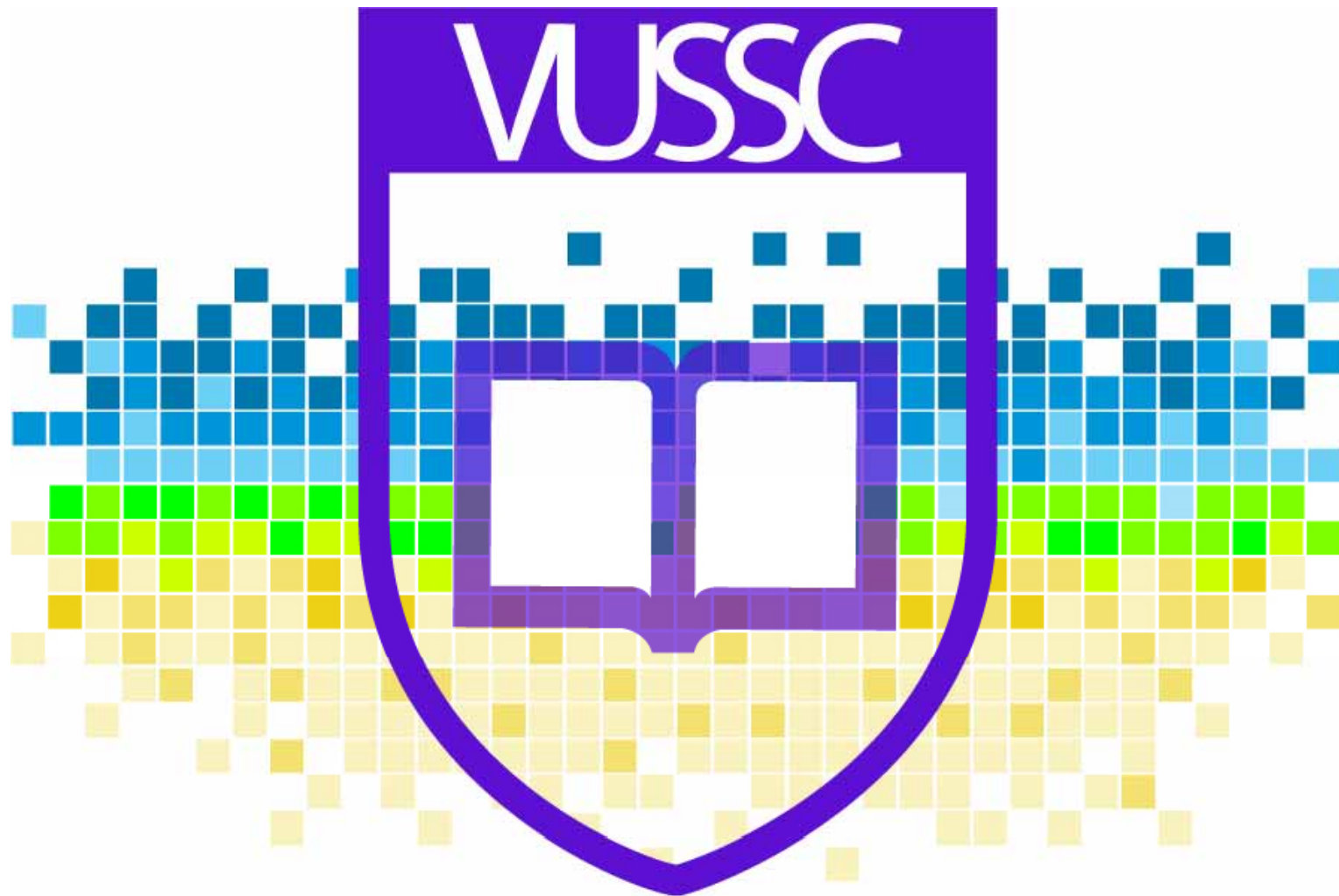
14CCEM – Halifax, Canada 2000

- High profile development agenda:
 - Millennium Development Goals
 - Education for All
- The Dotcom frenzy



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What?



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- Expand tertiary education



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- Expand tertiary education

- Engage with online world



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When?



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- 14CCEM (Halifax)

THE VISION

- 15CCEM (Edinburgh)

THE PLAN



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Course development workshops ("Boot camps")

Tourism & Entrepreneurship

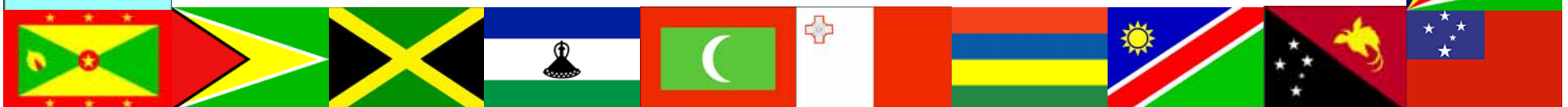
Professional Development of Educators

Life Skills

Disaster Management

Fisheries

Construction





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A Transnational Qualifications Framework

(developed with the help of the South African Qualifications Authority)



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VUSSC's first fully online course
**MANAGING AND FACILITATING
ONLINE INSTRUCTION**
University of the West Indies
Open Campus
COL sponsored students from
VUSSC countries.



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www.vussc.info/



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Where do the \$\$\$ come from?



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Plan: \$20 million (5 years)

Fact: \$ 2 million (5 years)

“SHOE STRING”

“BOTTOM UP”



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Thank you to...

- The Hewlett Foundation
- The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
- The Government of Singapore
- Participating governments



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The VUSSC is not a
COL project but an
initiative of the small
states themselves



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Paul West



John Lesperance



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Course development workshops (“Boot camps”)

Tourism & Entrepreneurship

Professional Development of Educators

Life Skills

Disaster Management

Fisheries

Construction & Building



Mauritius VUSSC Boot Camp – August 2006



“negotiated collaborative contents”

Seychelles VUSSC Boot Camp – March 2008



“negotiated collaborative contents”



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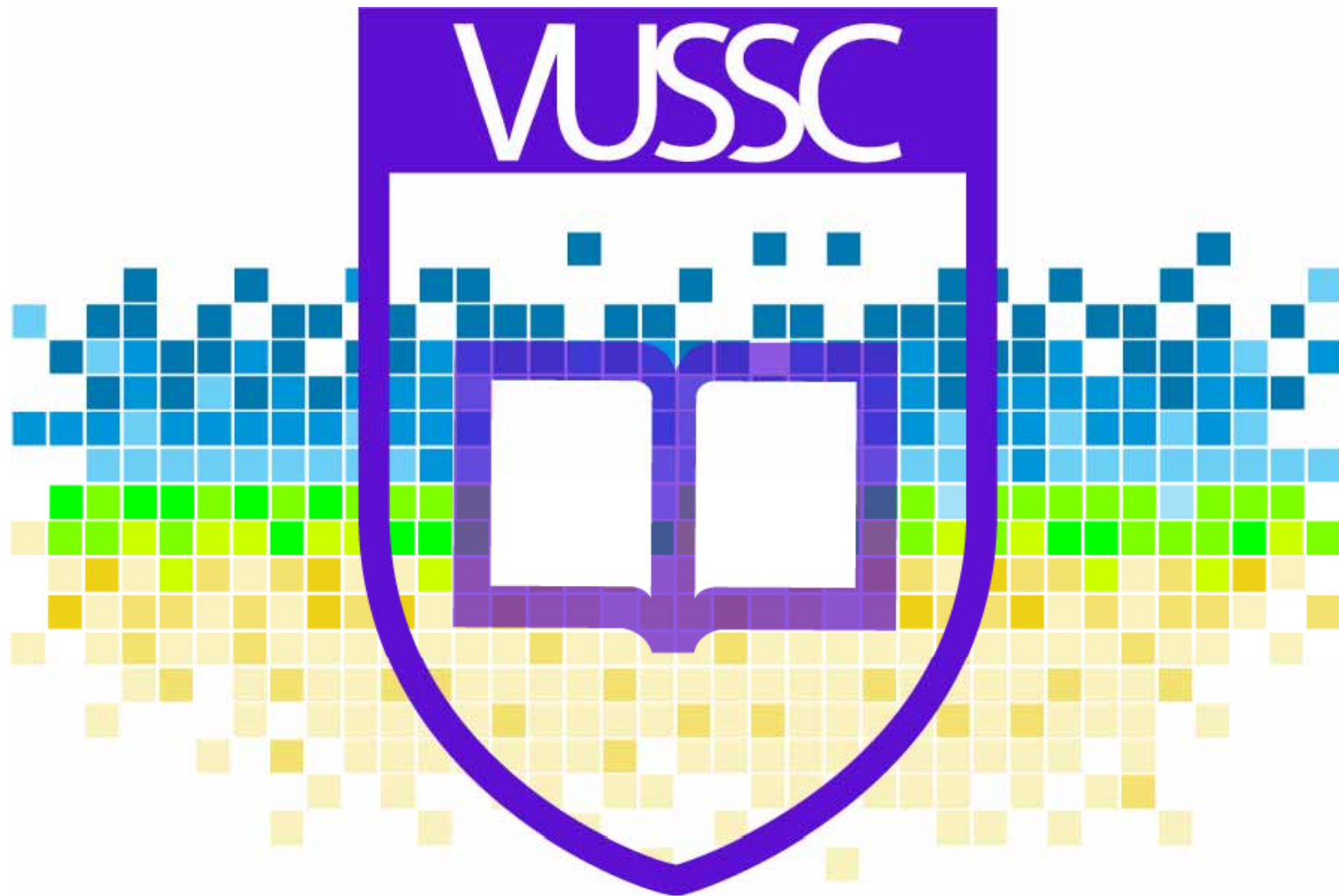
All VUSSC course materials are
made available for worldwide
adaptation and use as

OPEN
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES



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The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

Supporting the Small States is one aspect of the
Joint Work Plan of:



and



The Commonwealth of Learning



The background is a solid green color. On the left side, there are faint, light-green icons: an open book at the top, a hand with fingers spread in the middle, and a globe at the bottom. The text "THANK YOU" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters on the right side of the image.

THANK YOU



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

