



COMMONWEALTH  
of LEARNING



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Director: Education  
Commonwealth of Learning

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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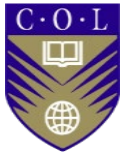
## Digitisation as a tool for scaling learning for development

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4IR and Digitalisation: Catalysing Access, AI Literacy,  
Openness, and Innovation in ODeL, Unisa College of  
Education – Institute for Open and Distance Learning  
Research Symposium

26 May 2026

# COL is an Inter-Governmental Organisation of the 56 countries of the Commonwealth



HQ  
Vancouver



CEMCA  
New Delhi

*to increase access to  
educational opportunities by  
using ODL and appropriate  
technologies*

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

**1**

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**Why  
digitisation?**

**2**

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**From  
digitisation to  
digitalisation**

**3**

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**Beyond  
Numbers**

**4**

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**AI and  
Openness**

**5**

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**Future  
scenarios**

# Why digitisation?

We commit to building resilient education systems that can withstand future threats and disruptions. We seek to improve access to digital connectivity and skills to support teaching and learning, we pledge to ensure inclusion and equity, harness partnerships with the private sector and empower children and young people to **shape the digital transformation of education** in the Commonwealth. Article 30, Ministerial Statement, CCEM, 2022.





Empowering women & girls through learning takes collaboration, innovation and community. Image: Khomas Directorate of Adult Education, Namibia, 2023

**learning  
innovation to  
create a  
resilient  
future**



COMMONWEALTH  
*of* LEARNING

### ***Learning innovation***

is needed to overcome chronic, systemic disadvantage.

### ***Open education & digitalisation***

is the advantage to take, now.

### ***A common voice***

on learning policy, institutional change and community impact means incentives and requirements to co-create, collaborate and share.

## expanding access through digitalisation

- Learning should be leading the digital transformation.
- A step change is now possible with increased digitisation.
- New technology, mobile devices, microcredentials and Generative AI show the way.
- We allow youth to speak, let us listen.



# From digitisation to digitalisation



# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS PACIFIC

## Recent Open Courses

Free capacity development for Pacific teachers



COURSE CATEGORY

**Quality assurance for ODFL – Part 1**

Course overview | Learning outcome | On successful



COURSE CATEGORY

**Learner support for Open, Distance and Flexible Learning**



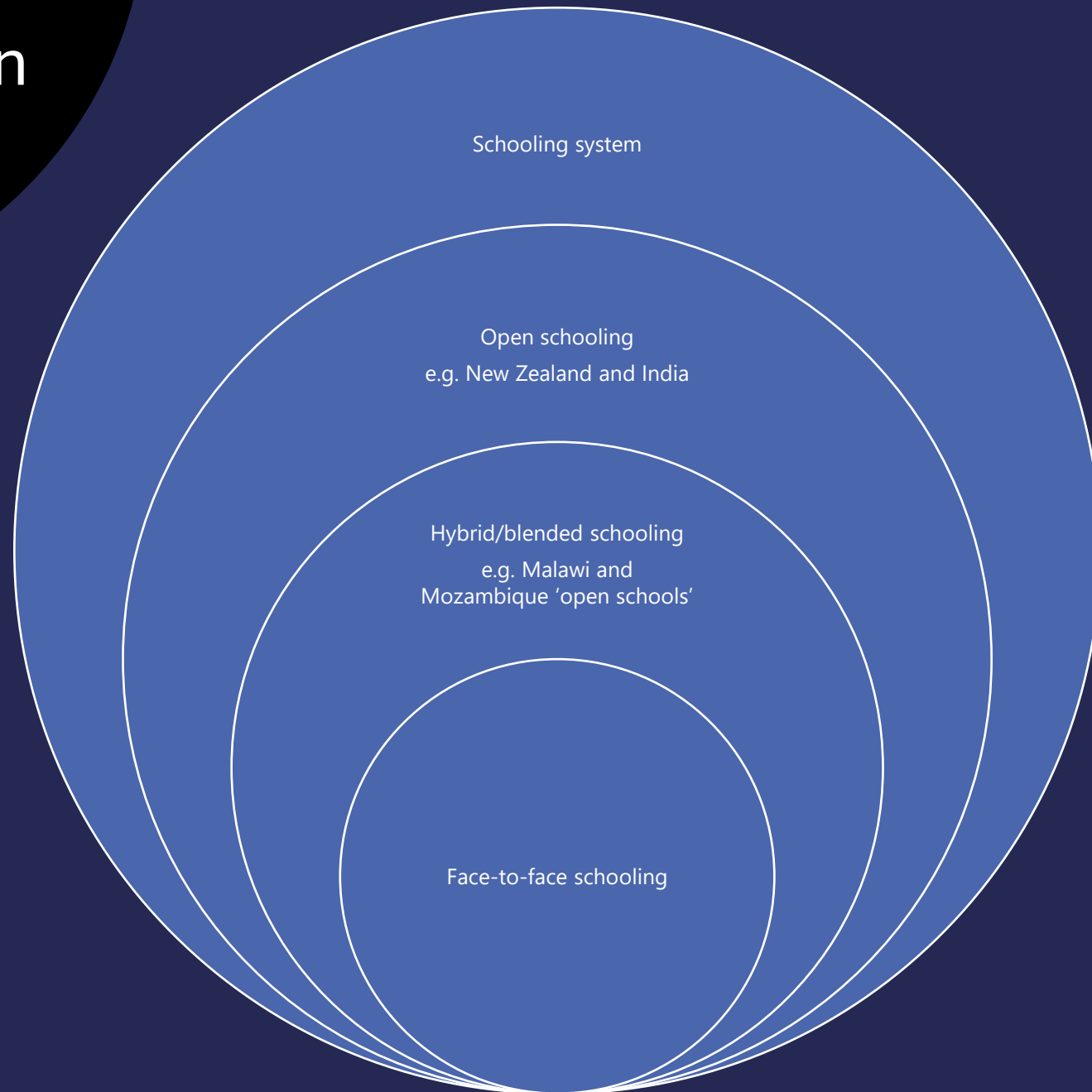
COURSE CATEGORY

**Empowered digital teacher for online learning**

<https://pacificpartnership.col.org/resources/>

# From digitisation to digitalisation

272 million children are out of school (GPE, 2025)  
GER at secondary level 77% in 2024 (World Bank, 2026a)  
19.8% NEETS (World Bank, 2026b)  
The Price of Inaction USD 10,000 trillion annually (UNESCO, 2024)  
Only ODL can close the gap (Mays & Singh, 2020; Mays and Siafu, 2025)





FODE officials participate in a learning seminar, strengthening capacity for online education and student support, Papua New Guinea, 2025.

FODE, 2026

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS **AFRICA**

<https://colcommons.org/>

## Strategies for developing OER & OEP in Africa

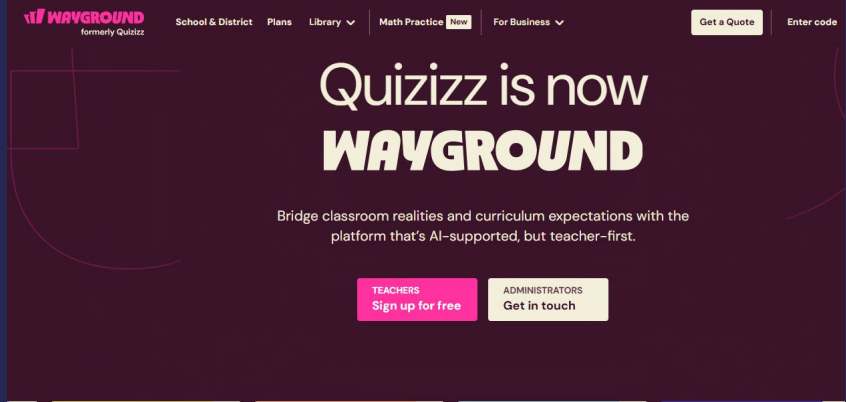
- Classroom teachers
- Curriculum mapping
  - ODL design
  - OER
  - Inclusion (including gender)
  - Assessment
  - Learner Support
  - Business Models
  - **Beyond Numbers**

# Beyond Numbers



<https://hdl.handle.net/11599/6098>

# From digitisation to digitalisation



Wayground formerly Quizizz

School & District Plans Library Math Practice New For Business

## Quizizz is now **WAYGROUND**

Bridge classroom realities and curriculum expectations with the platform that's AI-supported, but teacher-first.

TEACHERS Sign up for free

ADMINISTRATORS Get in touch



Plans and Pricing

Resources

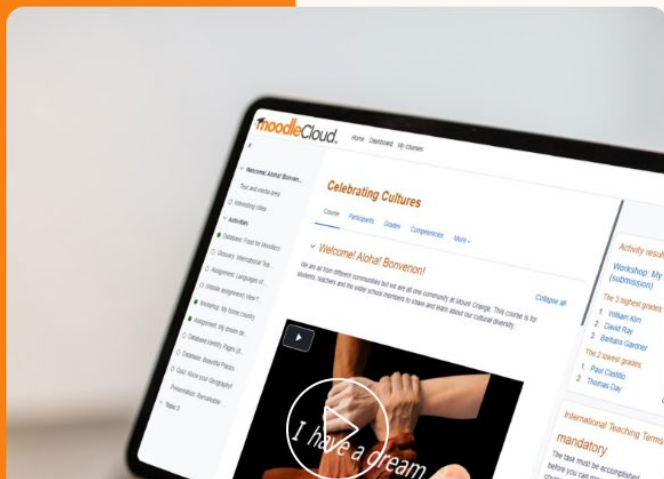
Contact Us

Login

## Launch a fuss-free LMS with MoodleCloud

Need to get your online courses up and running quickly? MoodleCloud makes it easy for educators and small organisations to create, deliver, and sell courses.

Get MoodleCloud →



What is MoodleCloud?

## A no-fuss cloud LMS for online course creation

MoodleCloud is a ready-to-use LMS solution designed for individuals, small teams, and growing organisations that want an easy way to get started with Moodle platforms — without needing technical setup or server management.

Key features:

- Easy setup and site maintenance

## Open LMS

Trusted By 1000+ Organizations

# Effortless eLearning, Scaled to Your Needs

Discover a scalable open-source learning management system that adapts to your needs and not the other way around. Open LMS provides organizations with a fully-managed learning platform to make meeting eLearning goals easy. We take care of every aspect of the LMS, including implementation, AWS cloud hosting, management, customization, education, and support. Leave the heavy lifting to us so you can focus on maximizing your users' learning experience!

120+ Countries

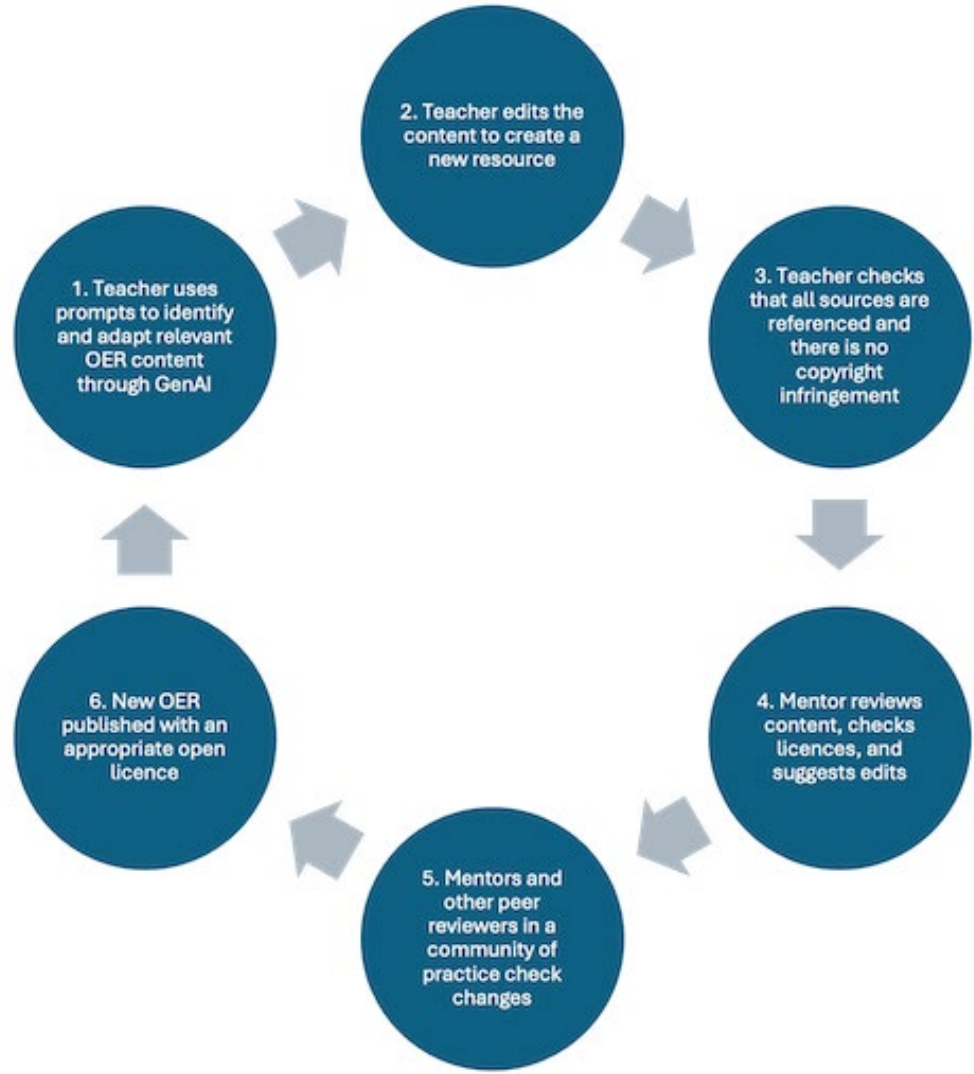


10M+ Learners



98% Client Satisfaction Rating





**Figure 1: Teacher in the Loop OER Co-Creation Cycle**

Teacher in the Loop AI (TiL-AI) (Balajee et al. 2025)

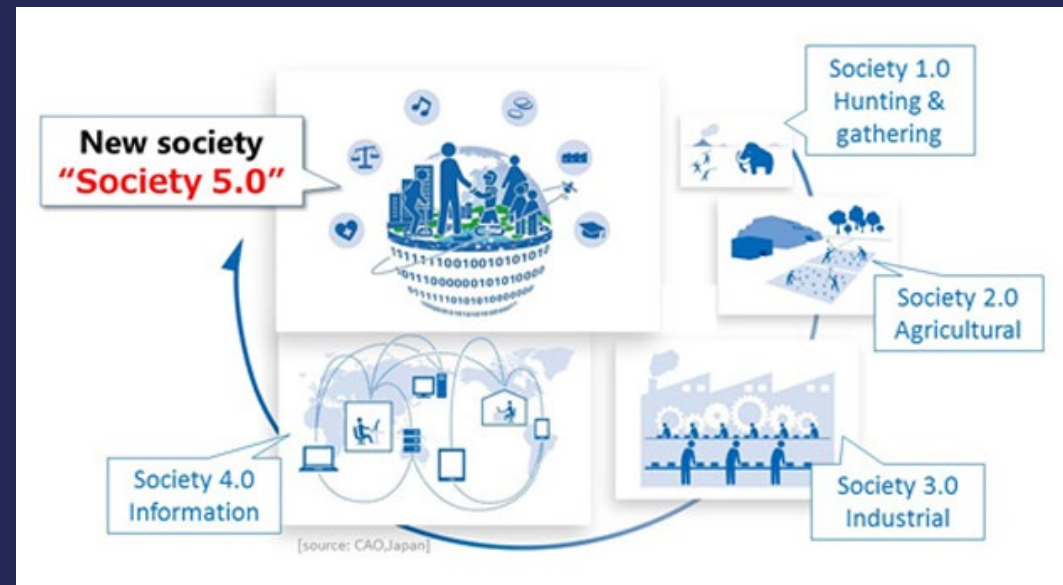
# Human-in-the-Loop

# AI

AI & Disengagement (Dizon, et al., 2026)

AI & Teacher Experience (Kasepalu, 2026)

AI and ODL Systems (Rienties, et al., 2026), OECD (2025,2026)



**Learner  
Variability  
Project**  
Getting to Know  
the Whole Child



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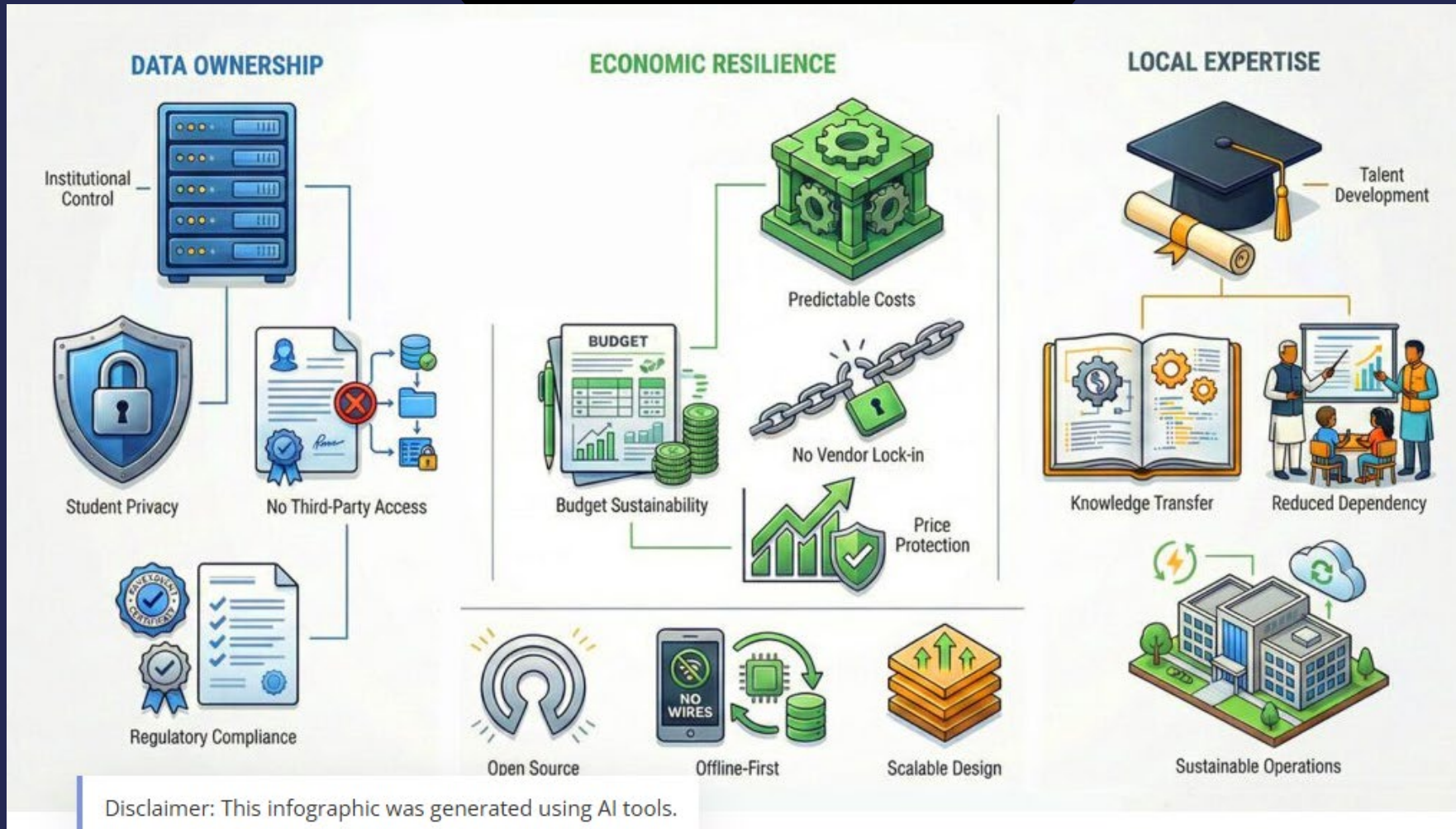
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# The Batch @ DeepLearning.AI >

I believe in letting — and even encouraging — someone to redo something until they succeed. This is as opposed to standing in judgement of the fact they didn't get it right the first time. Also, I believe homework assignments should be designed primarily to help people practice and learn, rather than to judge their skill level. This is why I prefer to create “Practice Problems” — questions that, when you think through them, help you to gain practice and reinforce what you know. As opposed to “Assessment Problems” designed primarily to judge skill. Ng (2026, 22 May).

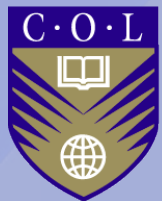
# FUTURE PROSPECTS: FRUGAL AI



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# Thank you



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