



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Learning for Development

Asha Kanwar

Commonwealth of Learning

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impactopenanddistance
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A community for learning and teaching, research and Innovation in Distance Education



The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)

Learning for Development



The Commonwealth of Learning

WHAT IS IT?

- Intergovernmental
- CHOGM 1987 - Vancouver
- Voluntary \$\$\$ from Commonwealth countries



The Commonwealth of Learning

WHAT IS IT FOR?

To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use various technologies to improve and expand learning for development



WHY EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND DISTANCE LEARNING?

- Economies of scale
- Geographical reach
- Flexible and cost-effective



WHO GOVERNS IT?

- **Board of Governors (12 Members)**
- **Reports to Foreign Ministers at CHOGM**
- **Reports to Triennial Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEMs)**





COL Board 2009

WHO PAYS?

Major donors:

Canada

India

New Zealand

Nigeria

South Africa

United Kingdom

Up from 27 to 41 in 2006-09



Thank you Australia

- 2004:455,034
- 2000:371,577
- 1995:77,306
- 1990:53,936



Australian Board Members

- Prof Malcolm Skilbeck, VC, Deakin (1989-90)
- Prof Richard Johnson, ANU (1991)
- Prof CD Blake, VC, CSU (1992-2000)
- Ms Ali Gillies, AusAID (2001)



Australian Staff Members

- Sherrill Whittington (1989-93)
- Mavis Bird (1991-97)
- Patrick Guiton (1992-4; 1998-2000)
- John Bartram (1998-2003)
- Michael Cuddihy (2004-05)



WHERE IS IT?



Vancouver
(Headquarters)



New Delhi
(CEMCA)

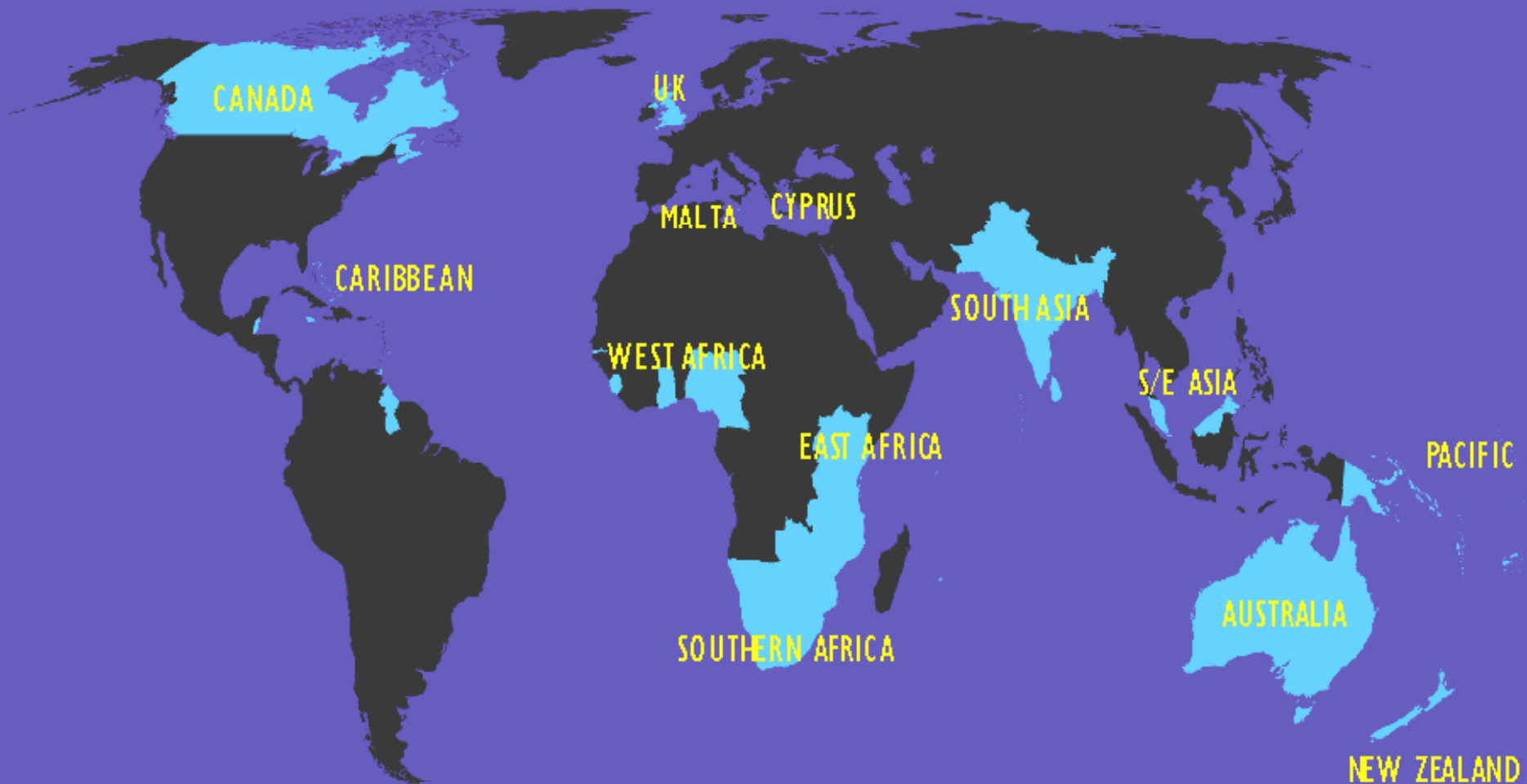
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Focal points in 52 countries
- Country Reports (2006-2009)
- Country Action Plans (2009-2012)
- Inform CW HCs in Ottawa & London



COL's Geographical outreach

The Commonwealth



...and all over the Commonwealth!

Focal Points, Australia

- Peter O'Connor, Director,
Development Banks & DAC
 - Leslie O'Donoghue, Asst. Director, DB
& DAC
- AusAID



COL in the Commonwealth

2006–2009 Country Reports



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Learning for Development

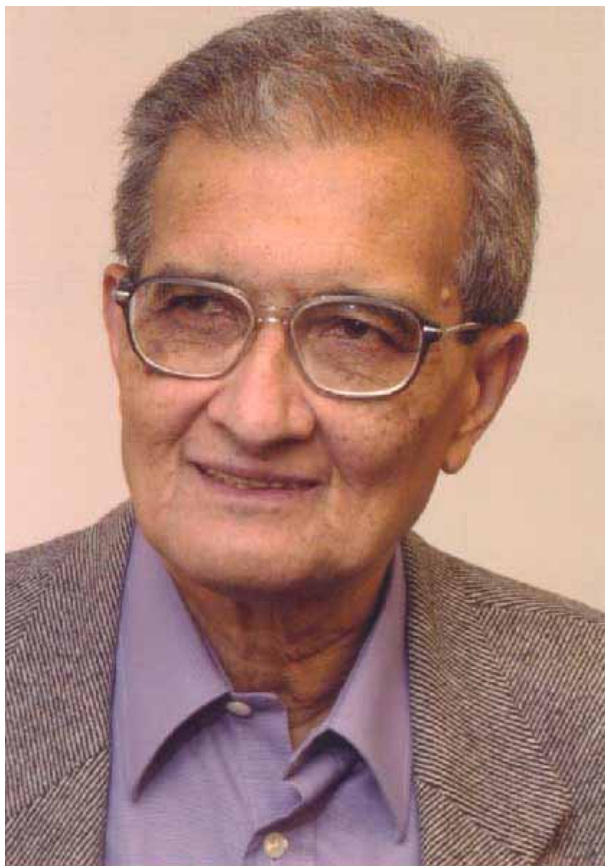


Learning for Development Three-Year Plan 2009-2012



Approved by COL's Board
(February 2009)

Ratified by Ministers at 17CCEM June 2009



Amartya Sen

Development

as

Freedom

- *“Education is the royal road to freedom: the royal road to that fundamental freedom of the human spirit that underpins other more practical freedoms”.*

Amartya Sen



Development as Freedom

Freedom from

- Hunger & Poverty
- Disease
- Pollution

Freedom to

- Be treated equally
- Be educated and trained
- Choose who governs you
- Express yourself
- Practice your religion





FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMONWEALTH



- **Sustainable livelihoods**
= key development challenge
- **HIV/AIDS**
= development disaster
- **Education/training of women**
= governments' priority
- **Digital divide**
= concern at Malta CHOGM
- **Respect & Understanding**
= report at Kampala CHOGM



Evaluation recommendations

- Fewer programmes for longer
- Link to government priorities
- Programme focus: not projects
- Autonomy + teamwork
- Partnerships





UN Millennium
Development Goals

Keep the promise
Millennium Development Goals



Education for All (The Dakar Goals)



Peace
Democracy
Equality
Good governance

EDUCATION

- Open Schooling
- Teacher Education
- Higher Education
- Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth



Millennium Development Goals 2&3

- **Achieve Universal Primary Education**

By 2015: children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- **Gender equality and women's empowerment**

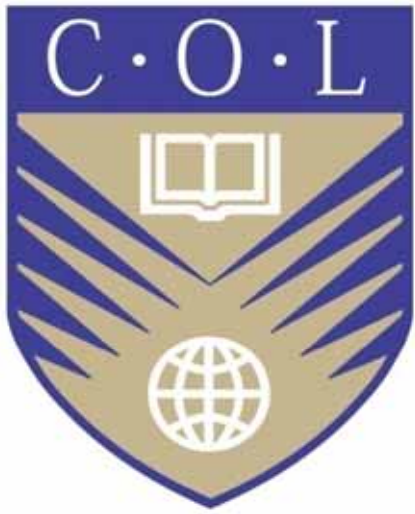
By 2015: eliminate gender disparity at all levels of education



Education for All Goals

- Achieve gender equality
- Improve the quality of education





Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Open Schooling (Frances Ferreira)



Open Schooling

- Universal Primary Education = progress
- Now a Surge to Secondary

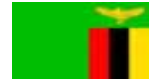


A country will never achieve
Universal Secondary Education if

Secondary
costs more than
TWICE
as much as
Primary

Keith Lewin

Fostering Collaboration



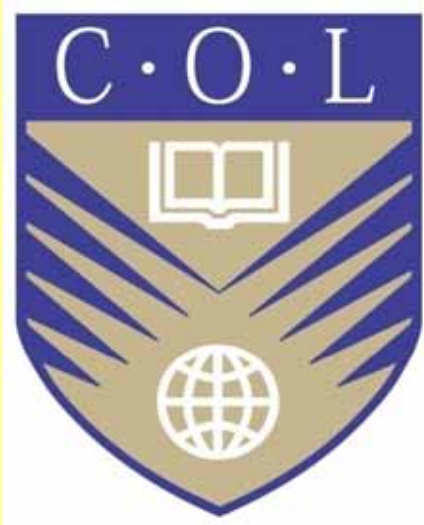
**20 sets
OERS Print**

20 sets Online

**5 sets
Multi
Media**

**100
Master
Teachers
Trained**



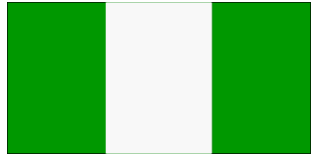


Three-Year Plan 2009-12

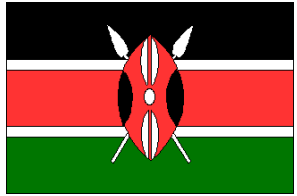
Teacher Education
(Abdurrahman Umar)



TEACHERS NEEDED



580,000 to 706,000



150,000 to 192,000



41,000 to 75,000



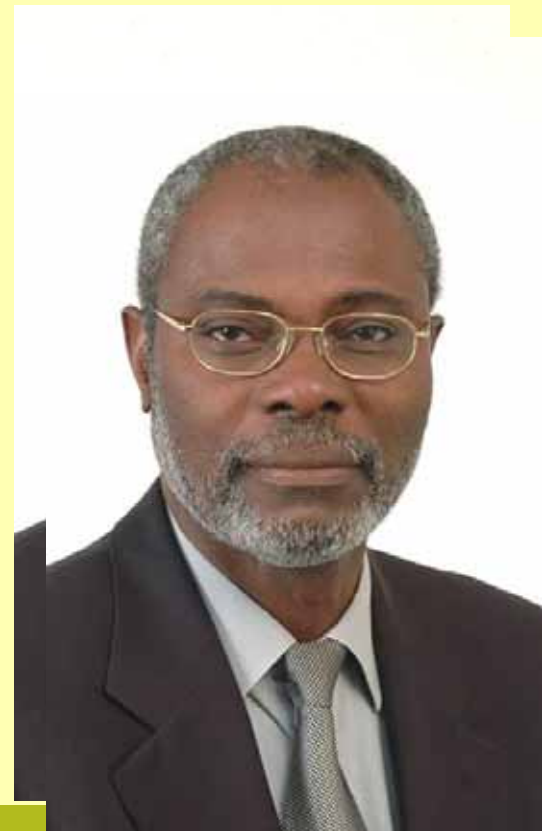
370,000 to 453,000



Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Higher Education (Willie Clarke-Okah)

Quality Assurance with
distance learning & ICTs





***The World Bank
says:***

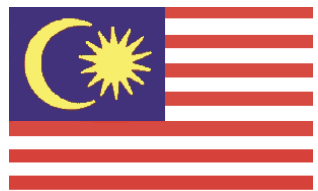
Age Participation Rates (APRs) of 40-50% for sustainable economic development

But

APRs less than 10% in much of Africa



APR ambitions:



40% by 2010



30% by 2015



15% by 2012

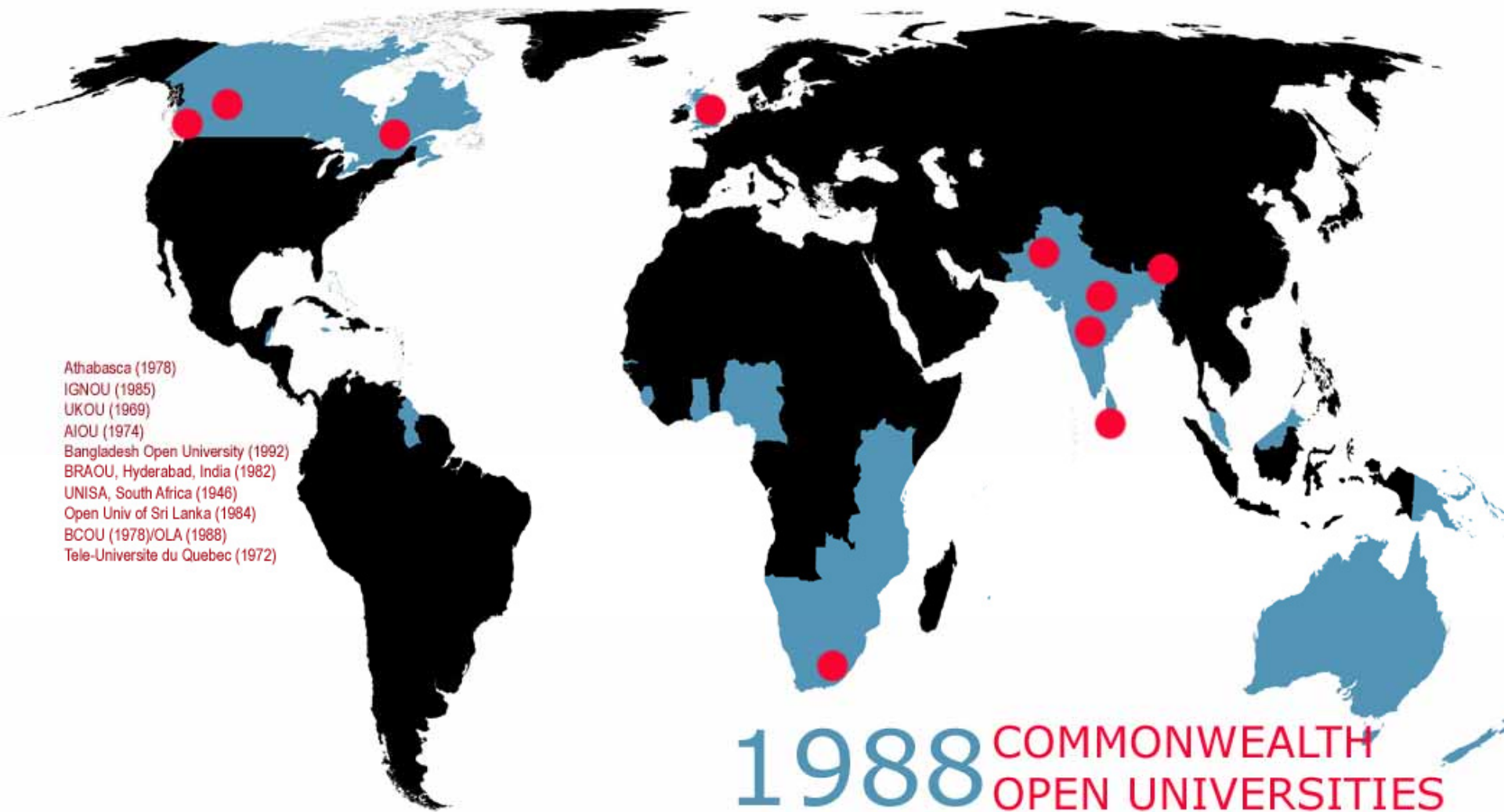
HUGE DEMAND:



University of Dhaka
10,000 of 80,000



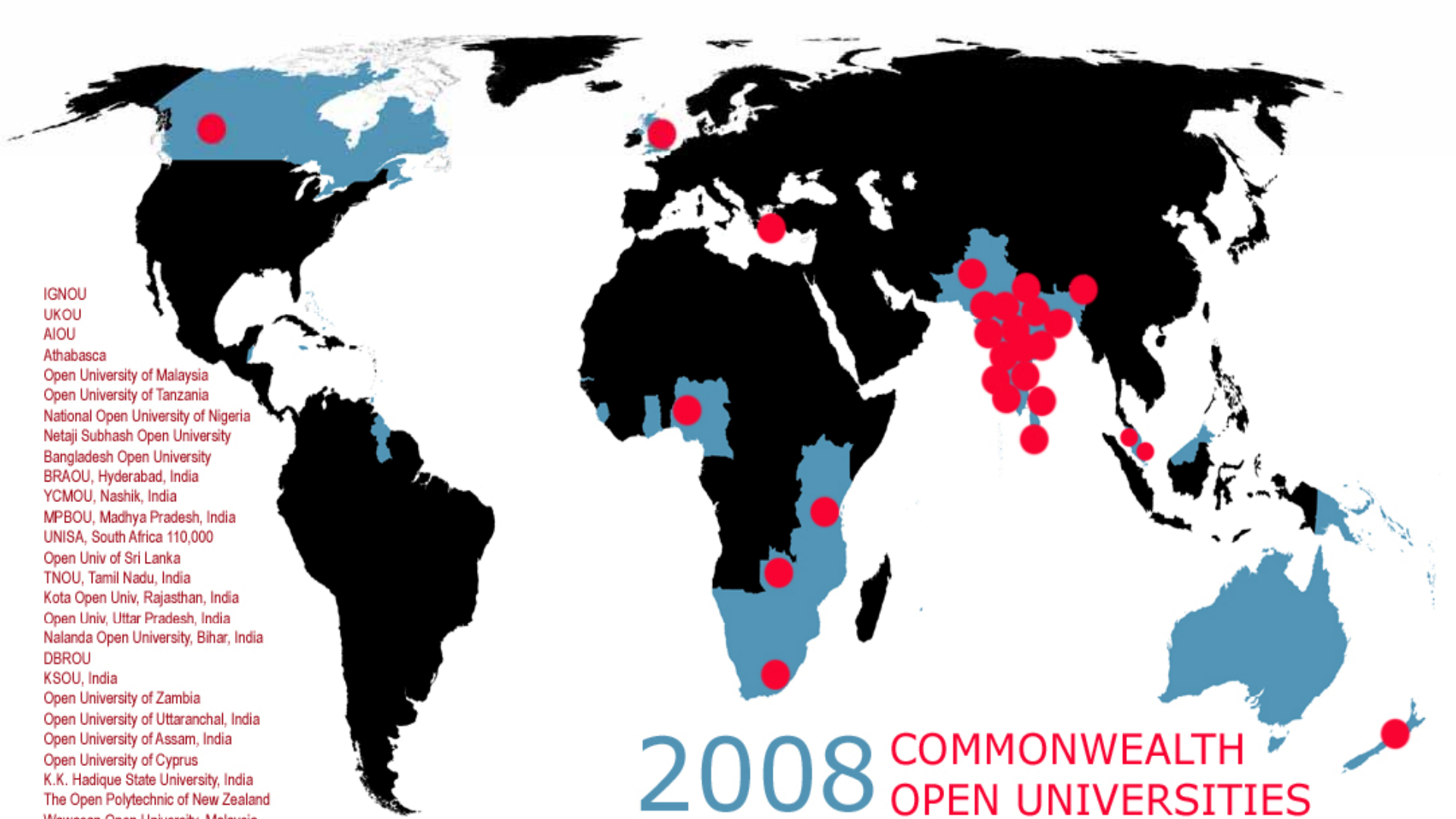
Public universities
9,000 out of 40,000



- Athabasca (1978)
- IGNOU (1985)
- UKOU (1969)
- AIOU (1974)
- Bangladesh Open University (1992)
- BRAOU, Hyderabad, India (1982)
- UNISA, South Africa (1946)
- Open Univ of Sri Lanka (1984)
- BCOU (1978)/OLA (1988)
- Tele-Universite du Quebec (1972)

1988 COMMONWEALTH OPEN UNIVERSITIES

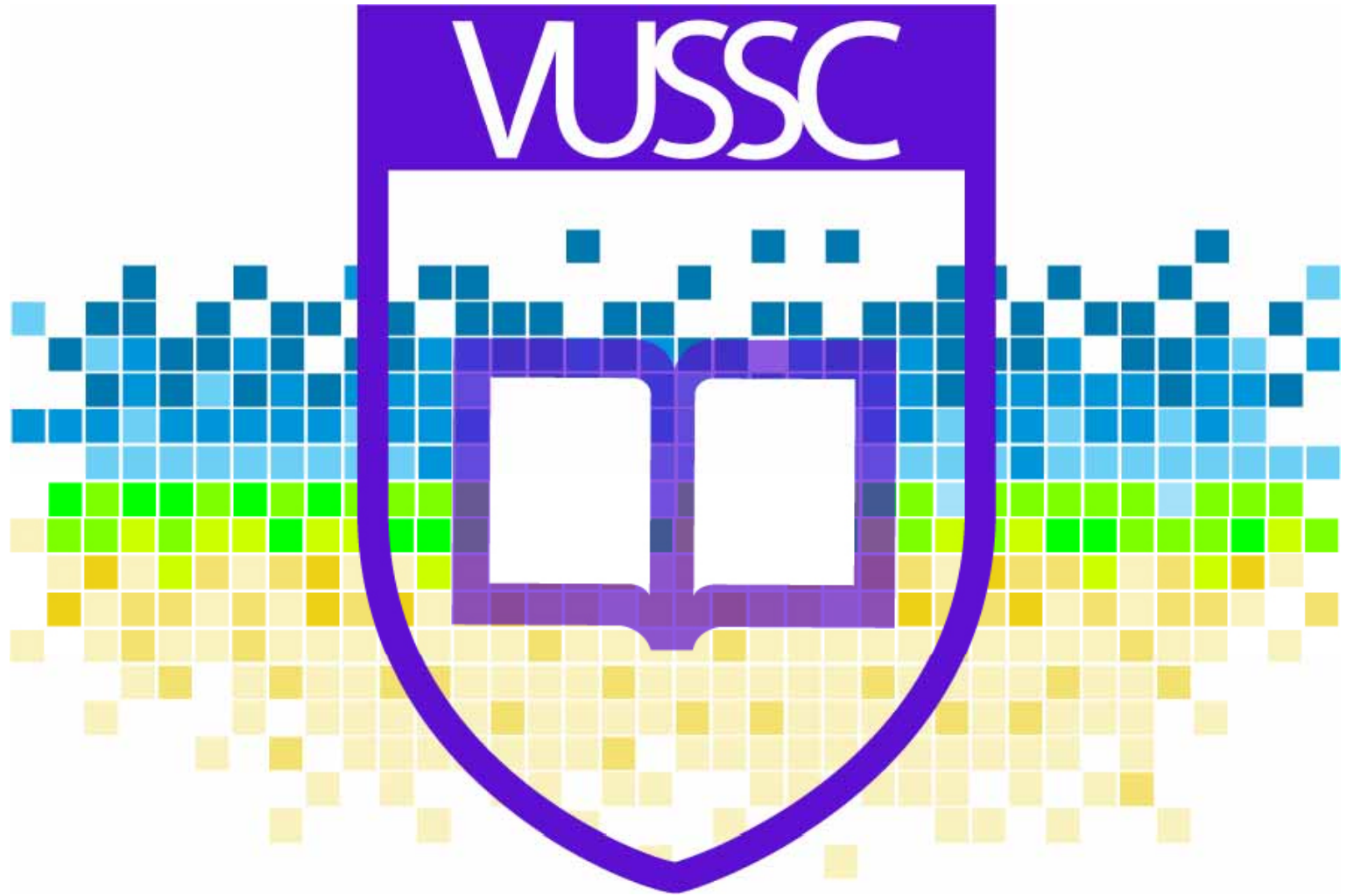




- IGNOU
- UKOU
- AIOU
- Athabasca
- Open University of Malaysia
- Open University of Tanzania
- National Open University of Nigeria
- Netaji Subhash Open University
- Bangladesh Open University
- BRAOU, Hyderabad, India
- YCMOU, Nashik, India
- MPBOU, Madhya Pradesh, India
- UNISA, South Africa 110,000
- Open Univ of Sri Lanka
- TNOU, Tamil Nadu, India
- Kota Open Univ, Rajasthan, India
- Open Univ, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Nalanda Open University, Bihar, India
- DBROU
- KSOU, India
- Open University of Zambia
- Open University of Uttaranchal, India
- Open University of Assam, India
- Open University of Cyprus
- K.K. Hadique State University, India
- The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand
- Wawasan Open University, Malaysia

2008 COMMONWEALTH OPEN UNIVERSITIES





**The Virtual University for
Small States of the Commonwealth**



The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

Paul West & John Lesperance



The Commonwealth of Learning



Mauritius VUSSC Boot Camp – August 2006



“negotiated collaborative contents”



- Navigation
- Main Page
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help
- Practice editing
- Donations

- Community
- Community portal
- Web chat
- Mailing list

Search

- Inbox
- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Print as PDF

[article](#) [discussion](#) [edit](#) [history](#)

Please join the [WikiEducator mailing list](#) to coordinate the development of WikiEducator content, structure, and technology.

Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

(Redirected from [Vussc](#))



VUSSC Node

small nations - big project

Working together on free content

An initiative of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

- [VUSSC Free content](#)
- [Discussion forum](#)
- [Other Community Networks](#)
- [Mauritius Bootcamp](#)
- [Singapore Bootcamp](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Trinidad & Tobago Boot Camp](#)

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- [4 VUSSC OER Planning and Development](#)
- [5 VUSCC Bootcamps](#)

About VUSSC [\[edit\]](#)

The Commonwealth Education Ministers conceived the idea of the [Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth](#) (VUSSC) at their meeting in Halifax, Canada, in 2000. The [Commonwealth of Learning](#) extended a formal [invitation](#) to the Education Ministers of the small states to participate in this initiative aimed at expanding access to education enabled by appropriate ICTs. VUSSC member countries met in Singapore on two occasions signing a [Letter of Intent](#) as well as the [Singapore Statement](#).

The VUSSC is a network committed to the collaborative development of free content resources for education.

News Releases [\[edit\]](#)

- [Online community creates learning content for small states -August 06](#)

VUSSC coordination nodes [\[edit\]](#)

LIVELIHOODS & HEALTH

- Skills Development
- Learning for Farming
- Healthy Communities
- Integrating eLearning



Millennium Development Goal (MDG)1

- **Poverty and Hunger**

By 2015: halve the proportion of people living on less than one \$ a day and those who suffer from hunger



MDGs 4, 5 & 6: Health

- **Reduce Child Mortality**

By 2015: reduce by $\frac{2}{3}$ the mortality rate for under fives

- **Improve Maternal Health**

By 2015: reduce by $\frac{3}{4}$ the ratio of women dying in childbirth

- **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

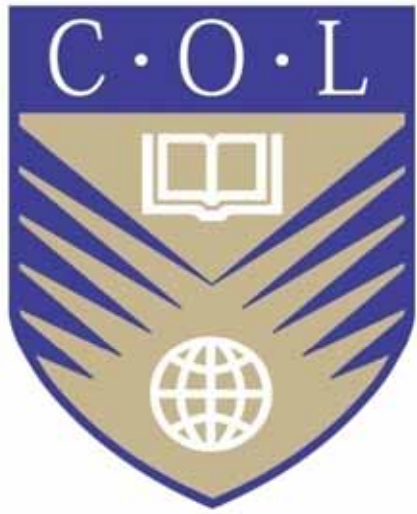
By 2015: halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS



Education for All Goals

- Promote learning and life skills for young people and adults





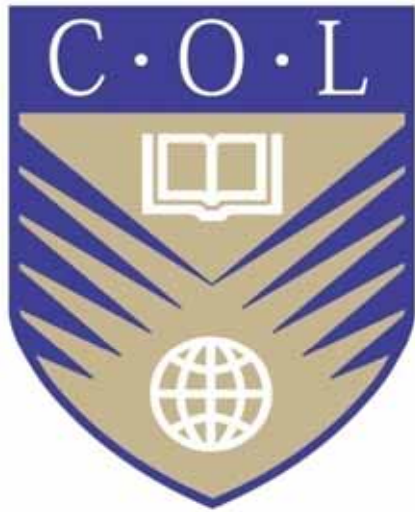
Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Skills Development
(Alison Mead
Richardson)



Nursing group working on content for the general nursing course, AMREF, Kenya





Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Learning for Farming
(Kodhandaraman
Balasubramanian)



Lifelong Learning for Farmers

4 Principles:

- Mobilise farmers to define their vision
- Link them to knowledge networks
- Facilitate access to ICTs
- Link to Banks and Markets





L3 Farmers: Testing the quality of milk



Kakamega, Kenya

L3F Initiatives in:

**Jamaica
Papua New Guinea
Kenya
Uganda
Mauritius
India
Sri Lanka**



Lifelong Learners



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT



Learning through Interactive Voice Educational System

Goal: to provide communities with a learning tool based on voice mails using mobile phones

Overview of The System

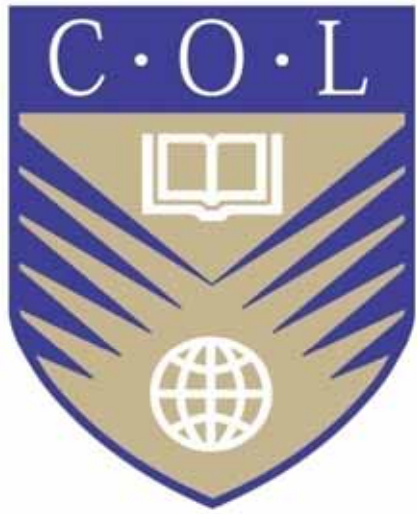
- Students register
- LIVES detects newly uploaded lectures/quizzes and calls the students at their preferred time
- The user progress tracking by user-profile database



Reaching the Unreached

- LIVES has a strong feedback and performance tracking system.
- A comprehensive data base on learning materials in various languages
- Reach more than 1000 learners at a time





Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Healthy Communities
(Ian Pringle)



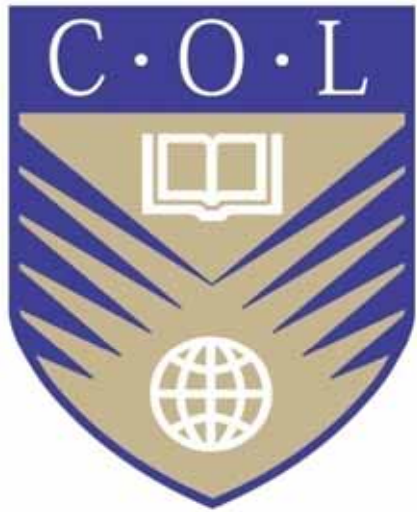
Phukusi la Moyo - Bag of Life

- Mchinji District, Malawi
 - 380,000 pop., 80% rural
 - High maternal & child mortality
- Programme design and team integrates
 - Community health project
 - Women's health groups
 - Community radio
 - District health office
- Message matrix
 - Key learning objectives
- 30-minute weekly radio programme
 - Field recordings and interviews
 - Stories & local case studies
- 200 learner support groups
 - 600 women trained as facilitators
 - 3,500+ women engaged now in learning
 - Target 15,000 pregnant women & 125,000 children
- Resources
 - \$28,000 + in-kind: concept, development, 1 year running
 - Funding through District Health Office for years 2 & 3
- Plan to
 - Scale up in Mchinji, Malawi and the region
 - Integrate mobiles, video

Malawi statistics

- 5% access to electricity
- 2 internet users and 12 mobiles/100
- 80 radio sets/100 in Mchinji
- 12% HIV infection
- 65% adult literacy





Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Integrating eLearning
(Trudi van Wyk)



Commonwealth Computer Navigator's Certificate

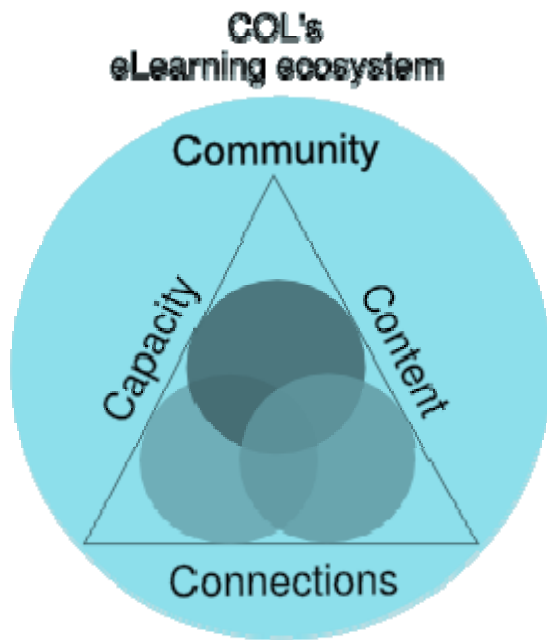
- Module 1 - Basic Concepts of ICTs
- Module 2 - Using a Computer and Managing Files
- Module 3 - Word Processing
- Module 4 - Spreadsheets
- Module 5 - Database
- Module 6 - Presentation
- Module 7 - Information and Communication





COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

WikiEducator : Learning4Content Workshops



Community

grown to 11,000 registered users

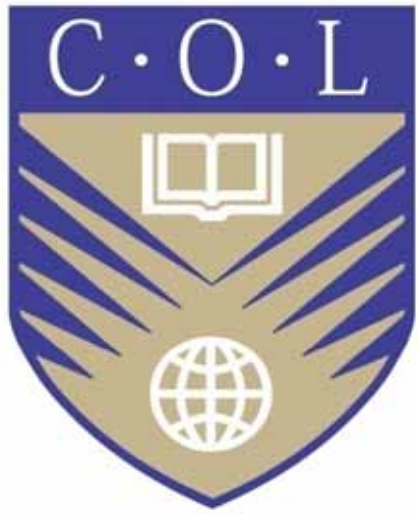
Capacity developed

➤ 3,349 educators trained

Gender distribution in workshops

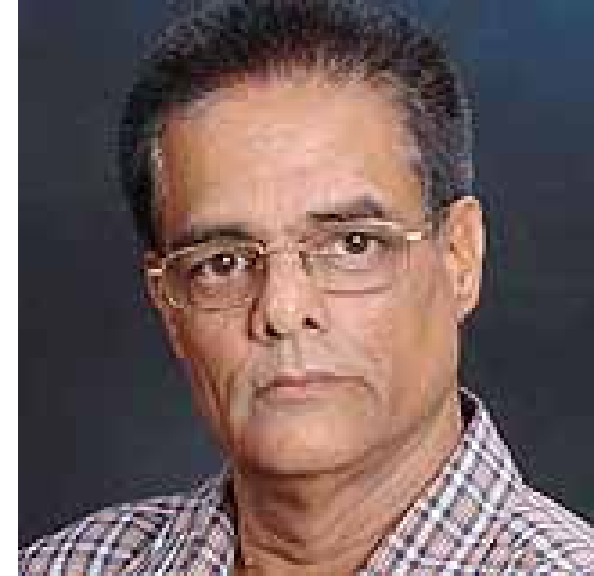
Online w-s: 53% male; 47% female

F2F w-s: 52% male; 48% female



Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Commonwealth Educational
Media Centre for Asia
(CEMCA) in New Delhi
(Ramamurthy Sreedher)



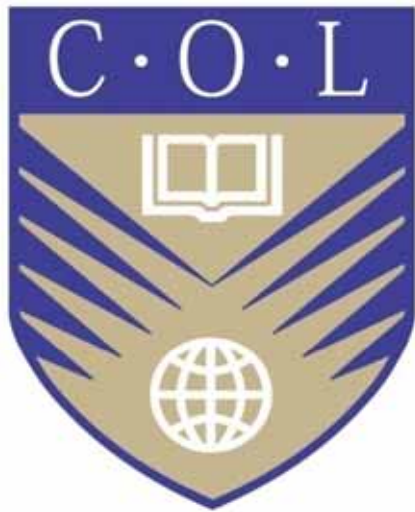
Easyknow

- Uses open source and easily available ICT tools to create multiple media content.

- cost-effective and quick upload

- Easy to understand and use by teachers





Three-Year Plan 2009-12

COL eLearning for
International
Organisations
(Angela Kwan)





THE SIXTH PAN-COMMONWEALTH FORUM ON OPEN LEARNING

November 24-28, 2010
Kochi, India

Conference Theme:

**Access and Success in Learning:
Global Developmental Perspectives**

Sub Themes:

**Social Justice
Community Development
Skills Development
Formal Education**



*Indira Gandhi
National Open University*

www.col.org/pcf6



*Commonwealth
of Learning*



Our Work in the Pacific 2006-09

VUSSC (9 CW Member States)

Learning for Farming (PNG)

DFL Policy (Solomons)

Community Media for Health (Tuvalu, Solomons)

Legislative Drafting (USP)

Skills Development (PATVET)



WHAT COL PROVIDES:

- **Expertise in learning + technology**
- **Collaboration & Networking**
- **Open and free content**
- **Successful and transferable models**



AREAS FOR COLLABORATION?



THANK YOU

