



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING



**Asia-Pacific Quality Network Conference
and Annual General Meeting, Cambodia**
29 Feb – 2 March, 2012

Professor Asha Kanwar, Vice President
Commonwealth of Learning
Vancouver, Canada

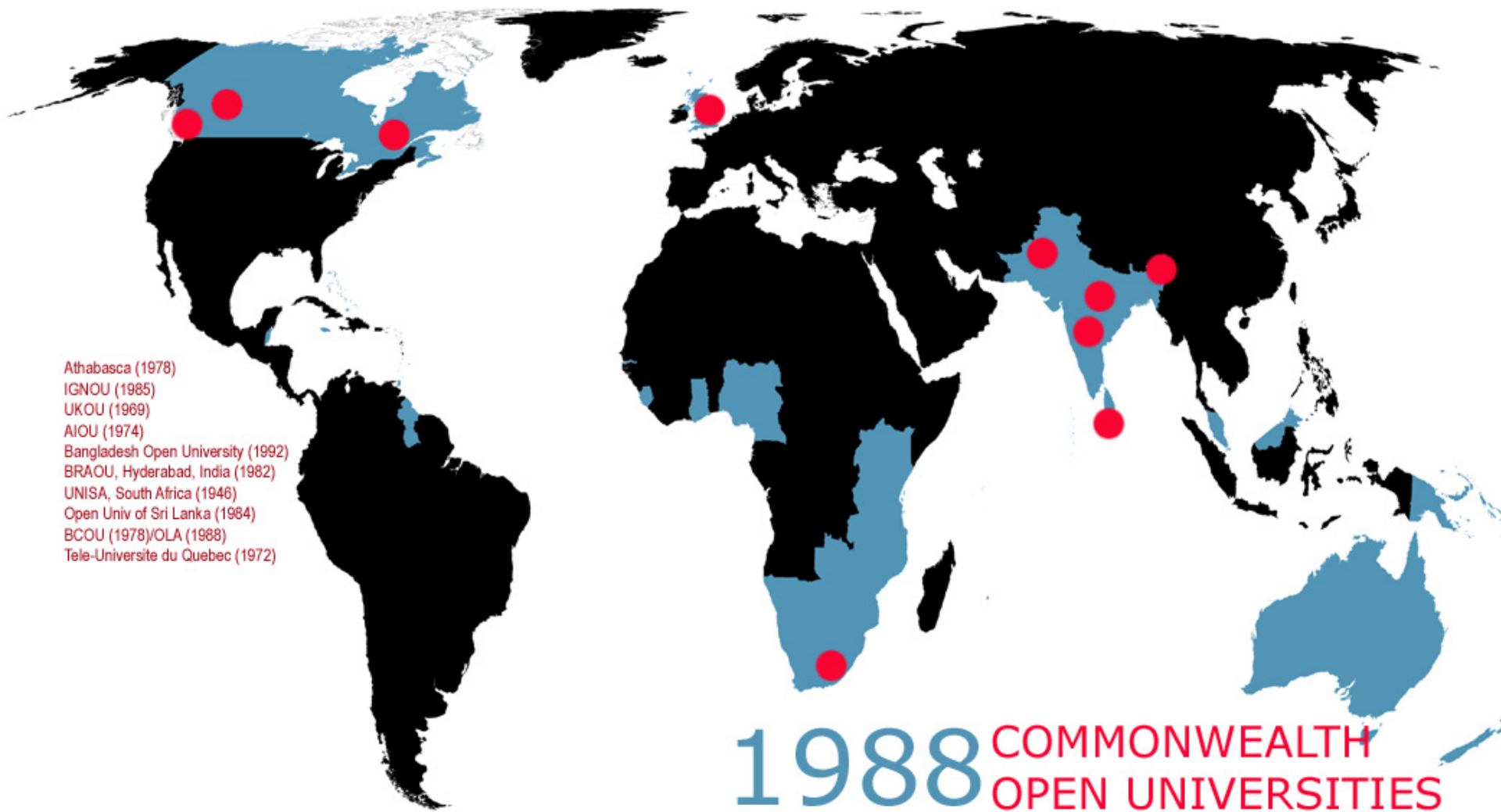
Plan

- Growth of ODL
- Trends in QA in ODL
- COL : Supporting a Culture of Quality
- What can be done

Strategy

Strategy

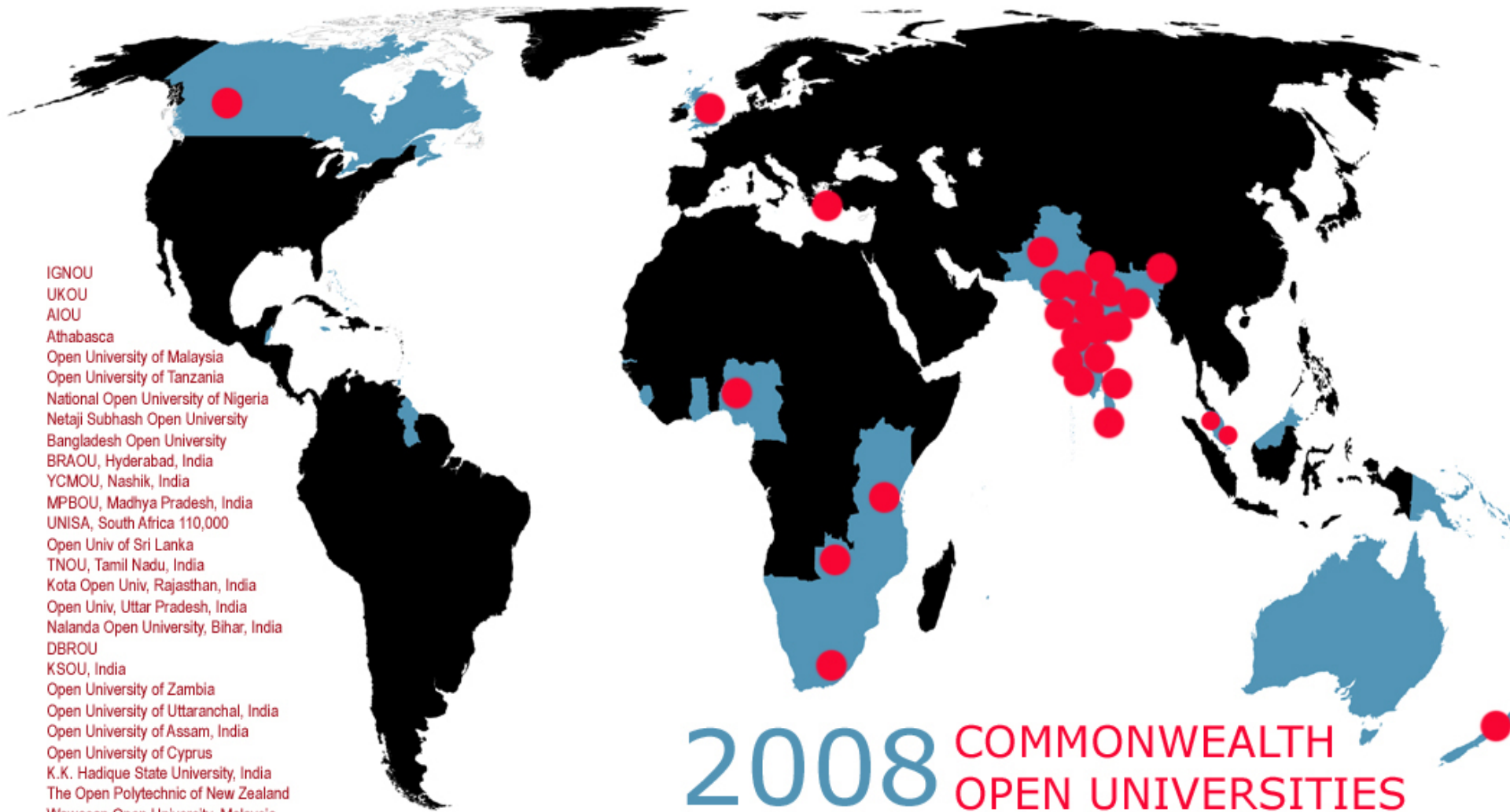
goals, planning
organization,
distinct from ta



- 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

Asia has over 70 open universities, 13 of which are mega-universities!

India has a network of 14 open universities, 14 open schools and nearly 150 dual-mode institutions with over 7 million learners.



o Barriers to ODL

- No government employment for ODL graduates
- Distinguish between ODL and F2F on transcripts



Ecuador

Proposed Legislation:

‘(Academic diplomas and degrees) should make mention of the modality in which the studies were completed...’



Ethiopia

- August 2010: Ministry of Education announces all distance education programmes in private and public institutions scrapped
- October 2010: Ban lifted after robust negotiations with 64, mostly private institutions and the introduction of a QA system

A strange paradox

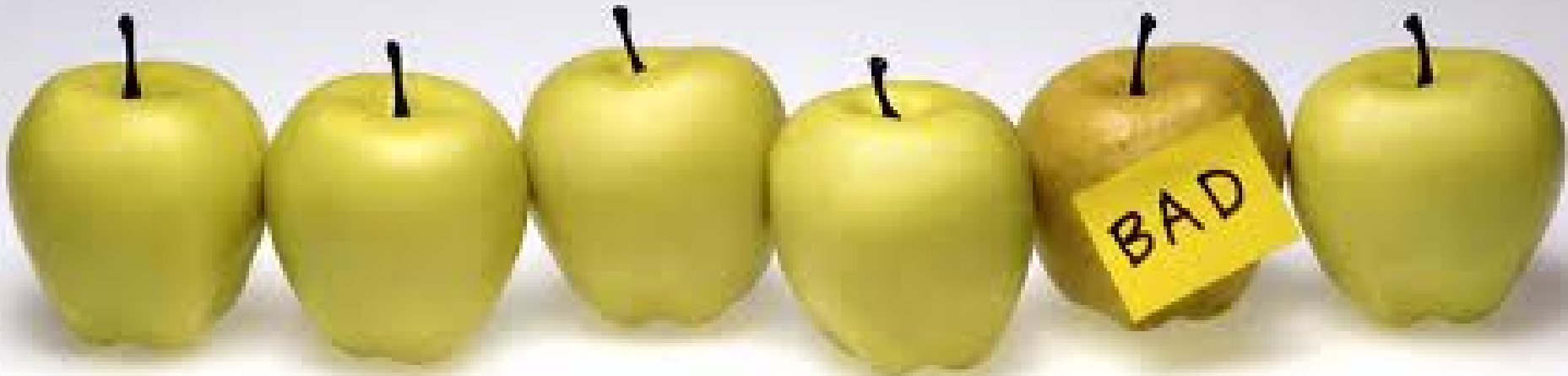
Distance education is
expanding

BUT

Pockets of resistance persist

One bad apple spoils the bunch

Need for rigorous QA



TRENDS IN QA IN ODL



Trends: 1960's 70's: Standards

- Quality of study materials
- Interactivity through tutorials & assignments
- Usability of ODL for subject concerned.

1990's: QA in Developed Countries

- Australia
- UK
- New Zealand
- Canada
- Adaptation to India, Hong Kong etc

One size does not fit all

2000-10: Cultures of Quality

- Convergence of external & internal QA measures
- OUUK: QAA & Internal validation unit

International

- Open University of Malaysia: ISO Certification accreditation





The front gate of the University campus in New Delhi.

Open University of Sri Lanka



Resource-poor contexts

- Kyambogo University, Uganda

Culture of quality= culture of care



BOCODOL



A culture of quality is an institutional culture that:

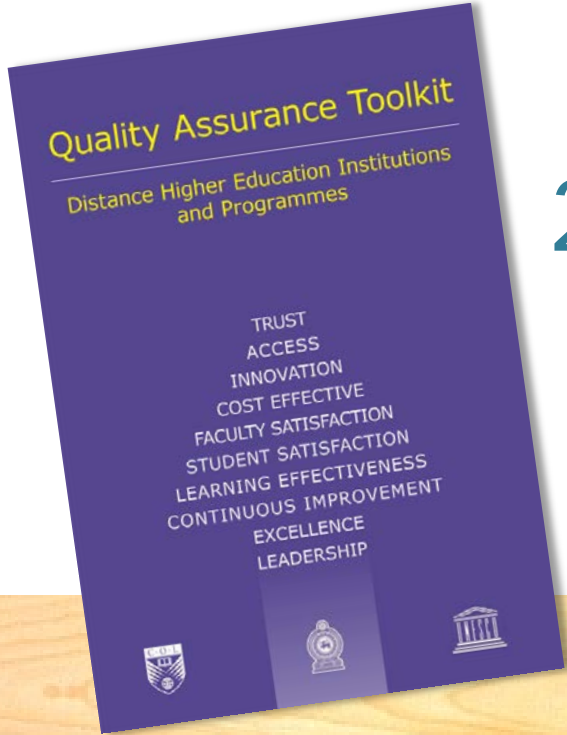
- Promotes the introduction of an internal QA system
- Values capacity building for implementing QA
- Stresses the link between the internal QA system and accountability to stakeholders
- Focuses more on learning rather than on teaching alone

COL: SUPPORTING A CULTURE OF QUALITY

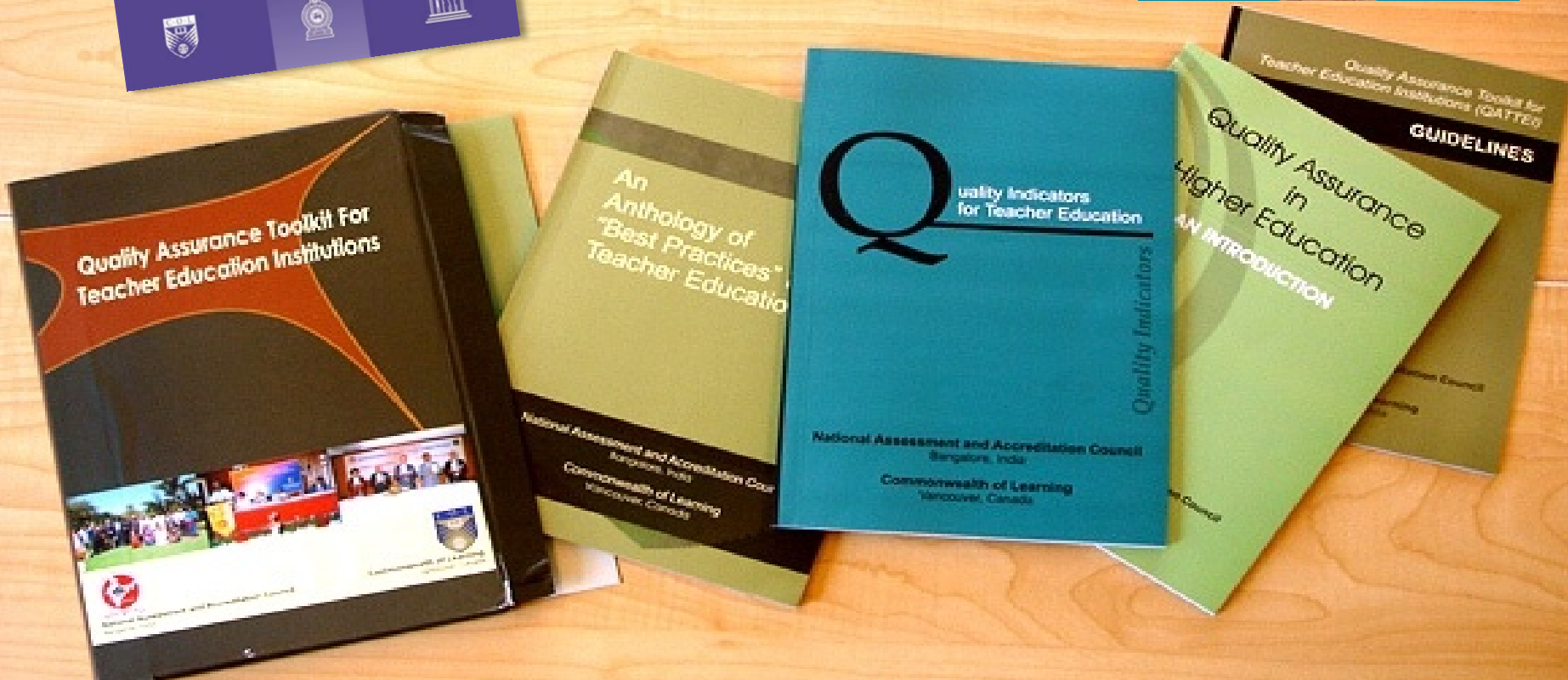
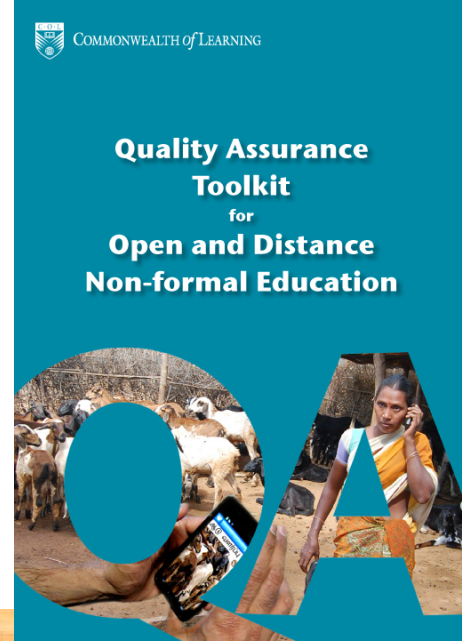


1. QA & Accreditation : Commonwealth

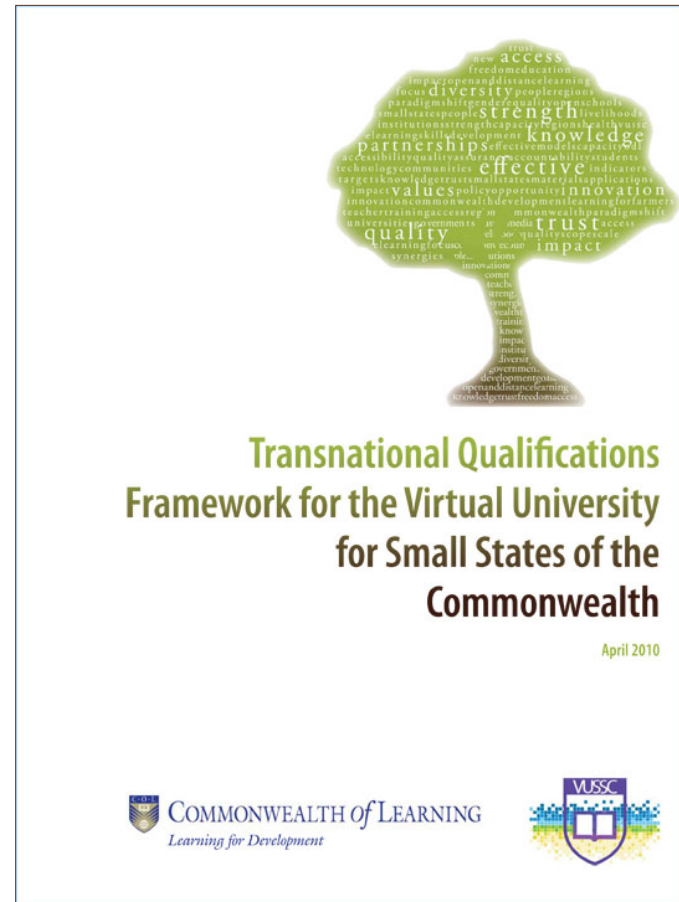
- Only 41 countries have
 - QA Authorities
 - HE Councils
 - National Accreditation Boards
 - Tertiary Councils
 - National Commissions or University Commissions



2. QA Toolkits

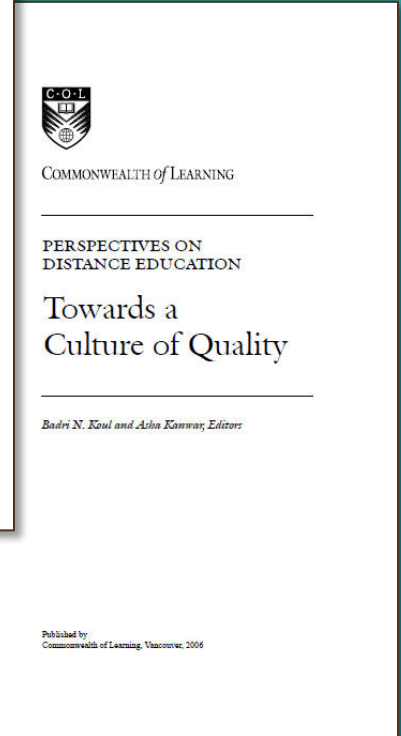
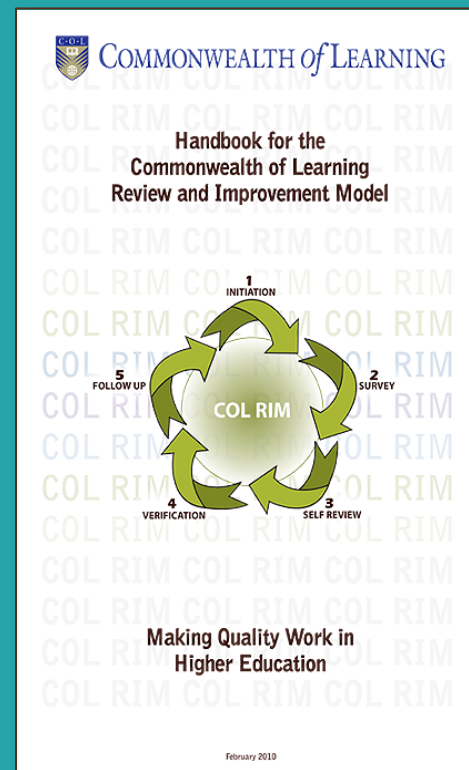


3. Transnational Qualifications Framework



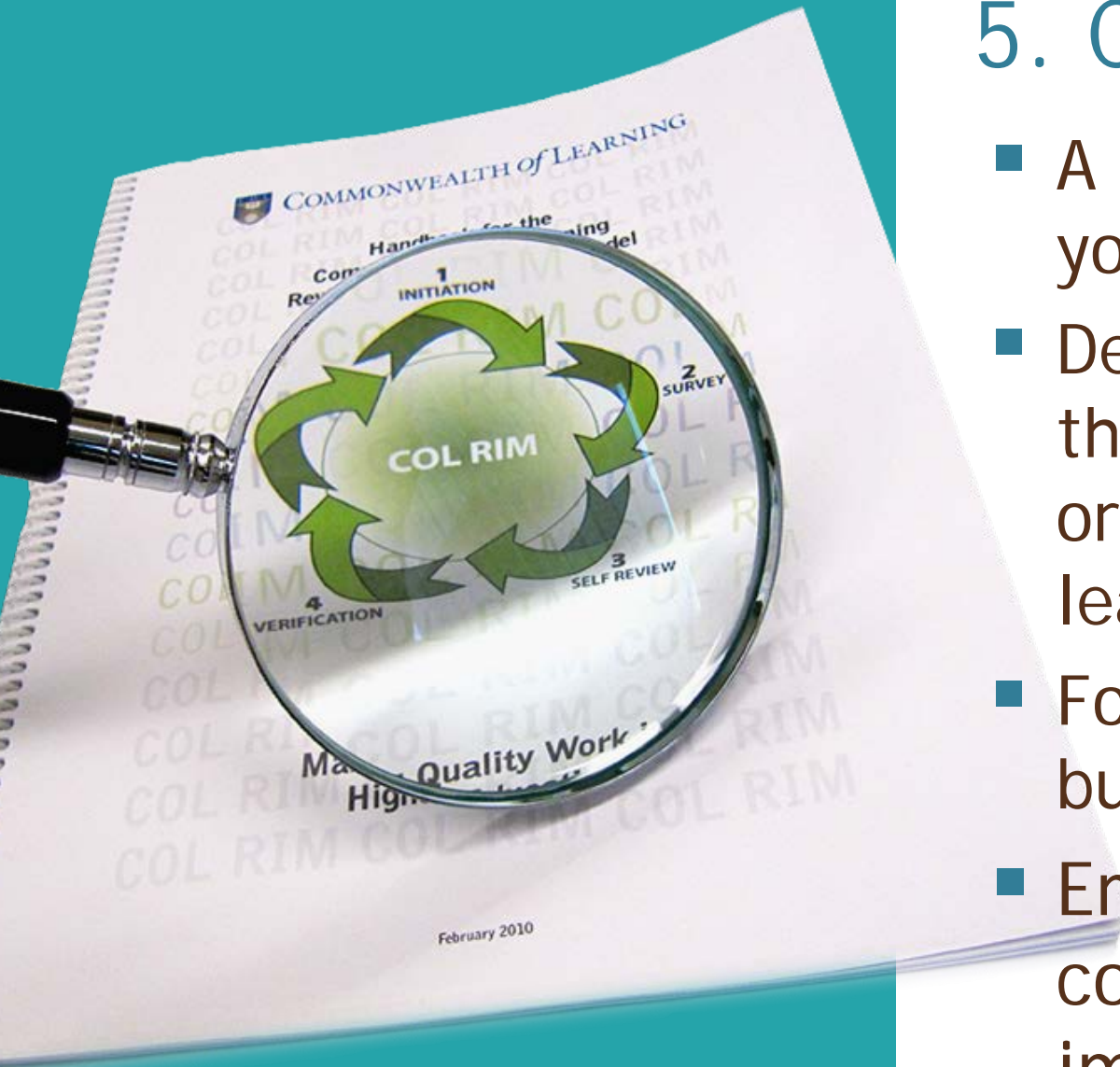
4. Other Resources

- QA Guidelines for Distance Education
- QA microsite at www.col.org
- *Towards a Culture of Quality*



5. COL RIM

- A low-cost 'do-it-yourself' model
- Develops systemic thinking and organizational learning
- Focuses on capacity building
- Emphasis on continuous improvement



What can Be Done

- Same regulations for ODL & F2F
 - Quality Assurance Agency, UK: assesses both campus and distance universities
- Change the focus from input to outcomes
- Appropriate regulations and recognition for trans-national and private provision

THANK YOU
WWW.COL.ORG

