

**BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY**

20 October 2009

# **Open and Distance Learning (ODL): An imperative for Bangladesh**



**Sir John Daniel**



**Prof Asha Kanwar**

# 4 SECTIONS

- Nature of technology in education
- ODL in higher education
- Open Schooling
- COL's programme

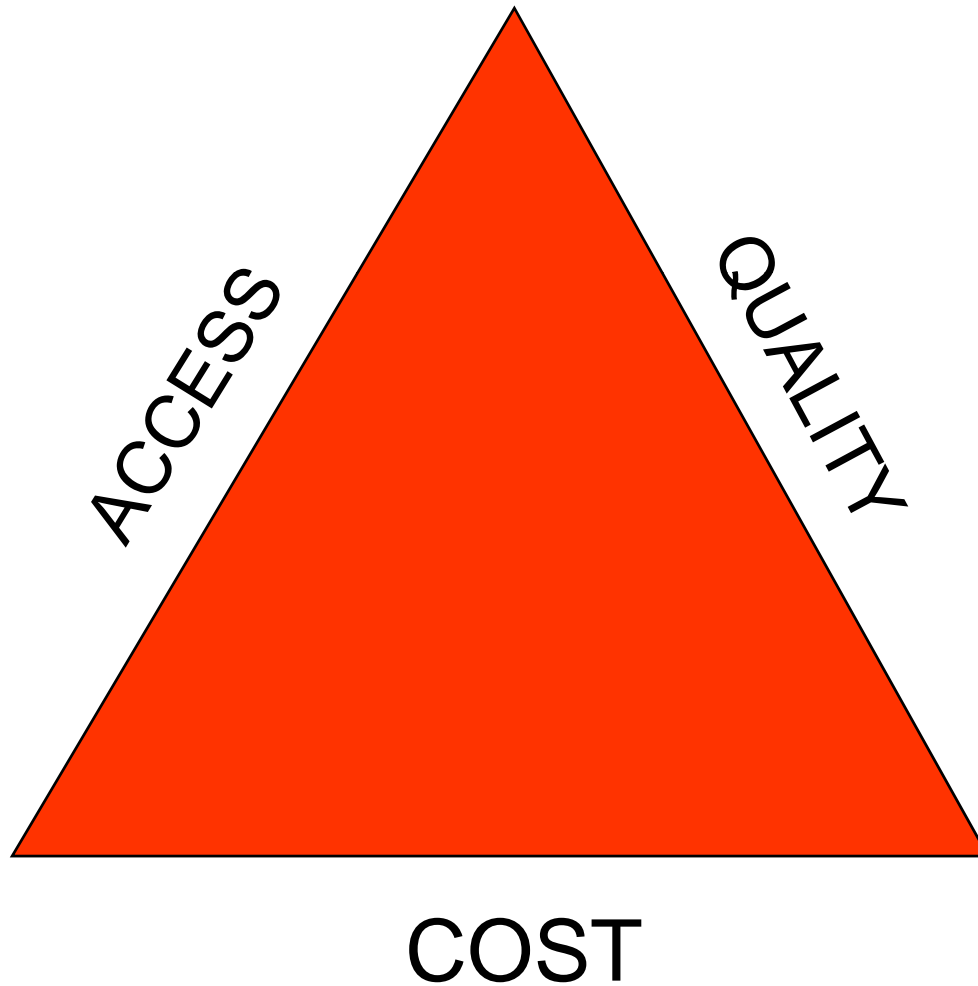
# 4 SECTIONS

- **Nature of technology in education**

# The Central Challenge

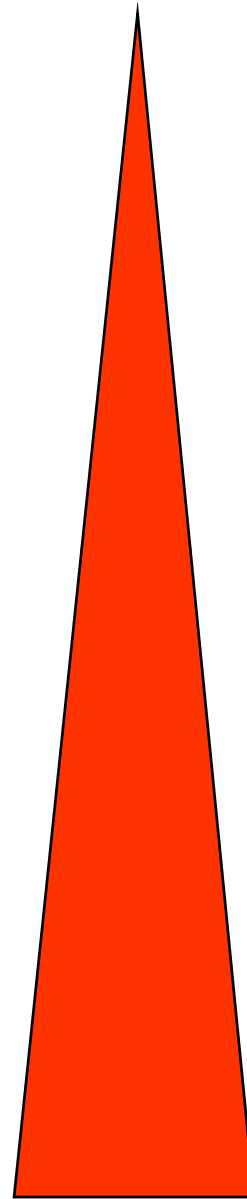
- ACCESS (wider)
- QUALITY (higher)
- COST (lower)

# The Iron Triangle



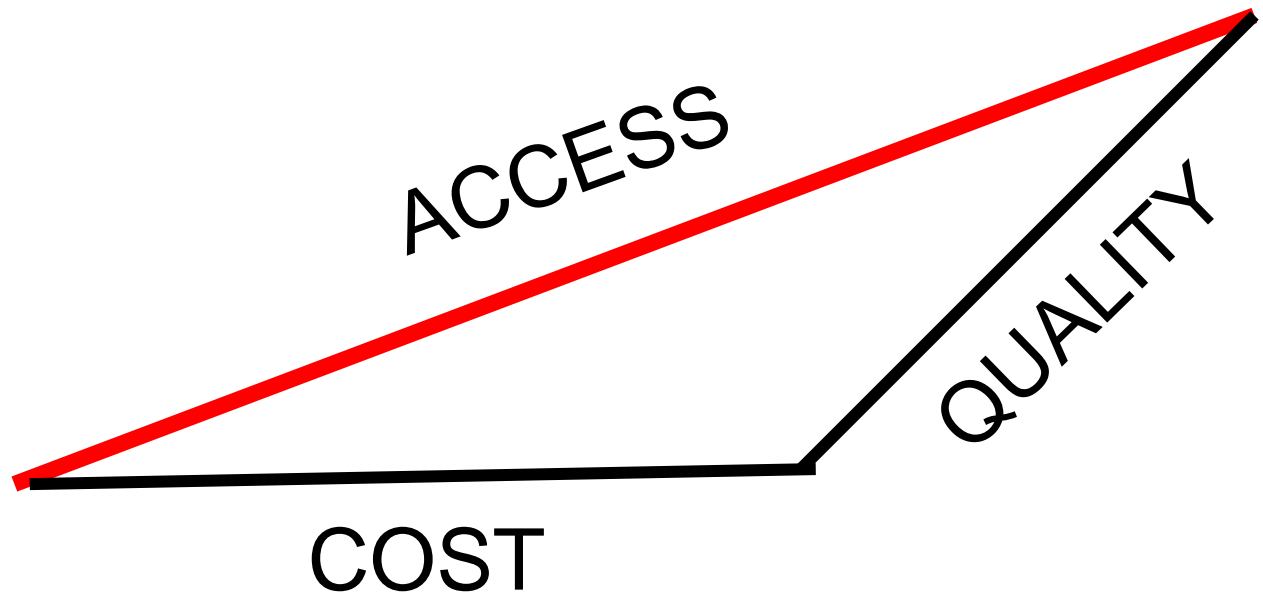
**ACCESS**

**QUALITY**

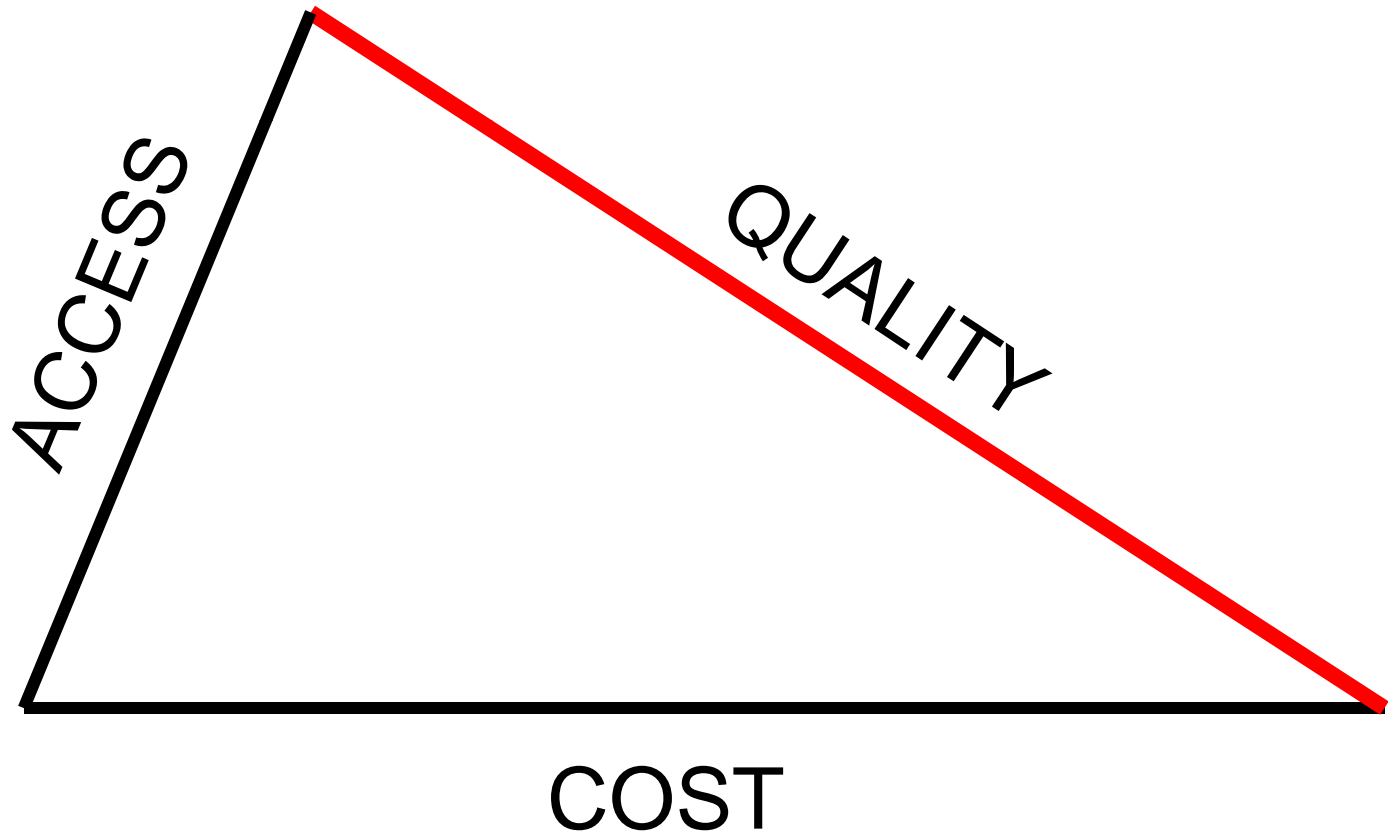


**COST**

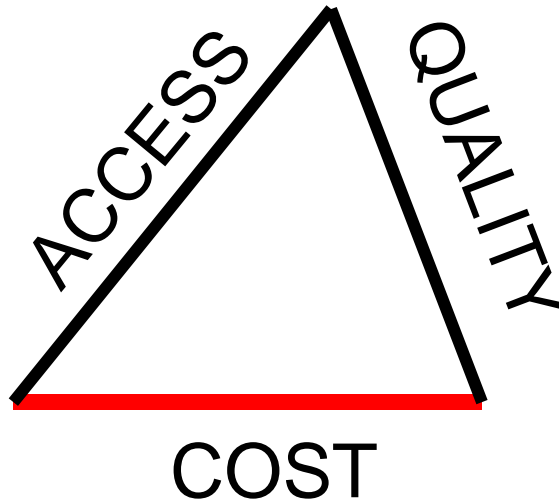
# The Iron Triangle



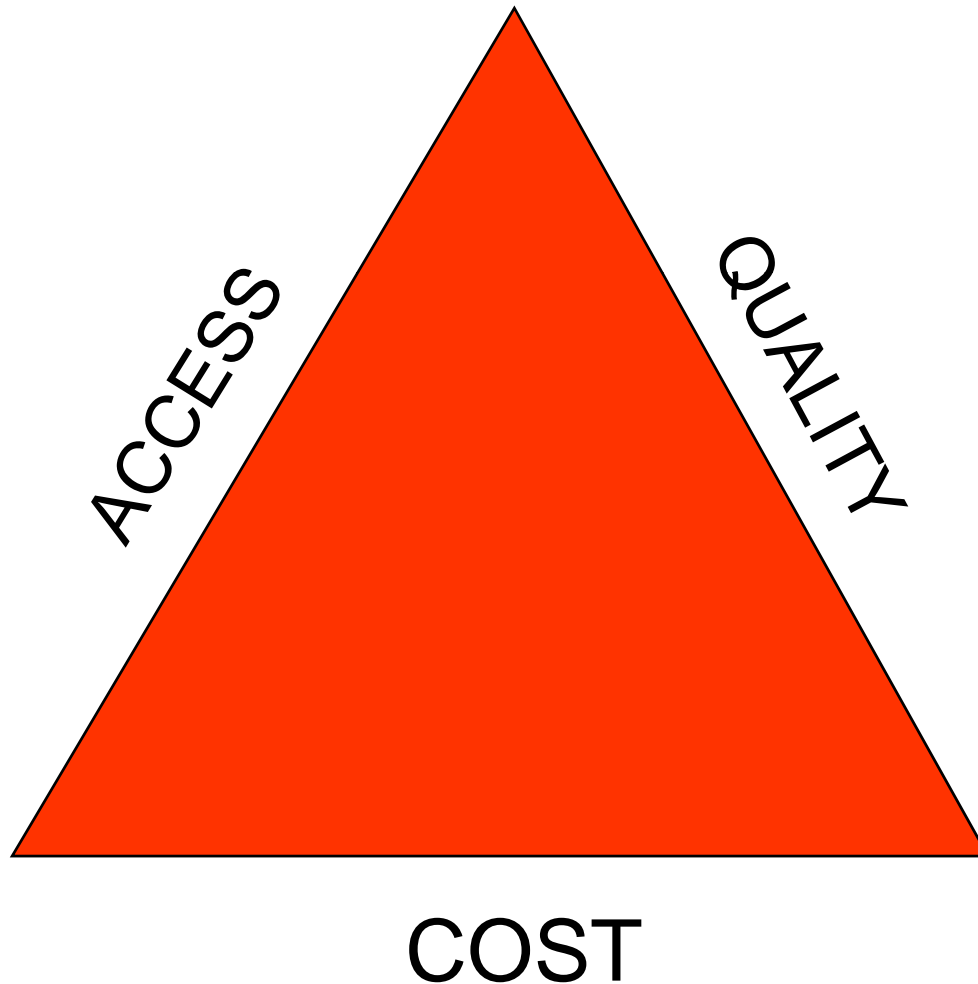
# The Iron Triangle



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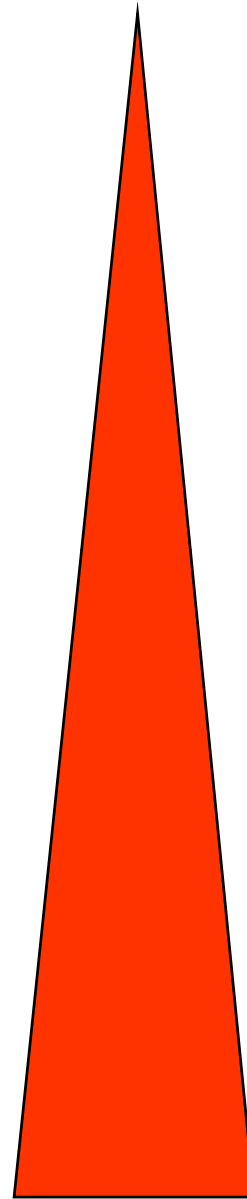


**“an insidious link between  
quality and exclusivity”**



**ACCESS**

**QUALITY**



**COST**

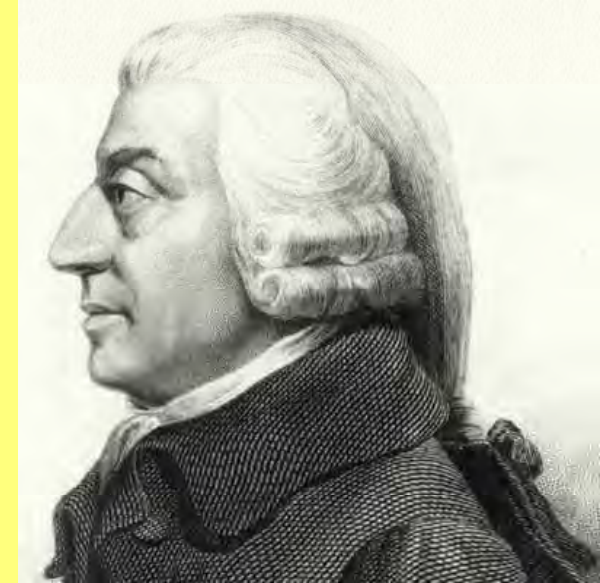
# The Technology Revolution

- ACCESS (wider)
- QUALITY (higher)
- COST (lower)

**ALL AT THE SAME TIME!**

# Principles of Technology

- Division of labour
- Specialisation
- Economies of scale
- Machines and ICTs



Adam Smith  
1723-1790

# 4 SECTIONS

- Nature of technology in education
- **ODL in higher education**



**The Open University**

- **200,000+ students**

# BRITAIN'S TOP NINE UNIVERSITIES

## Quality Rankings of Teaching

based on all subject assessments 1995-2004  
(*Sunday Times University Guide 2004*)

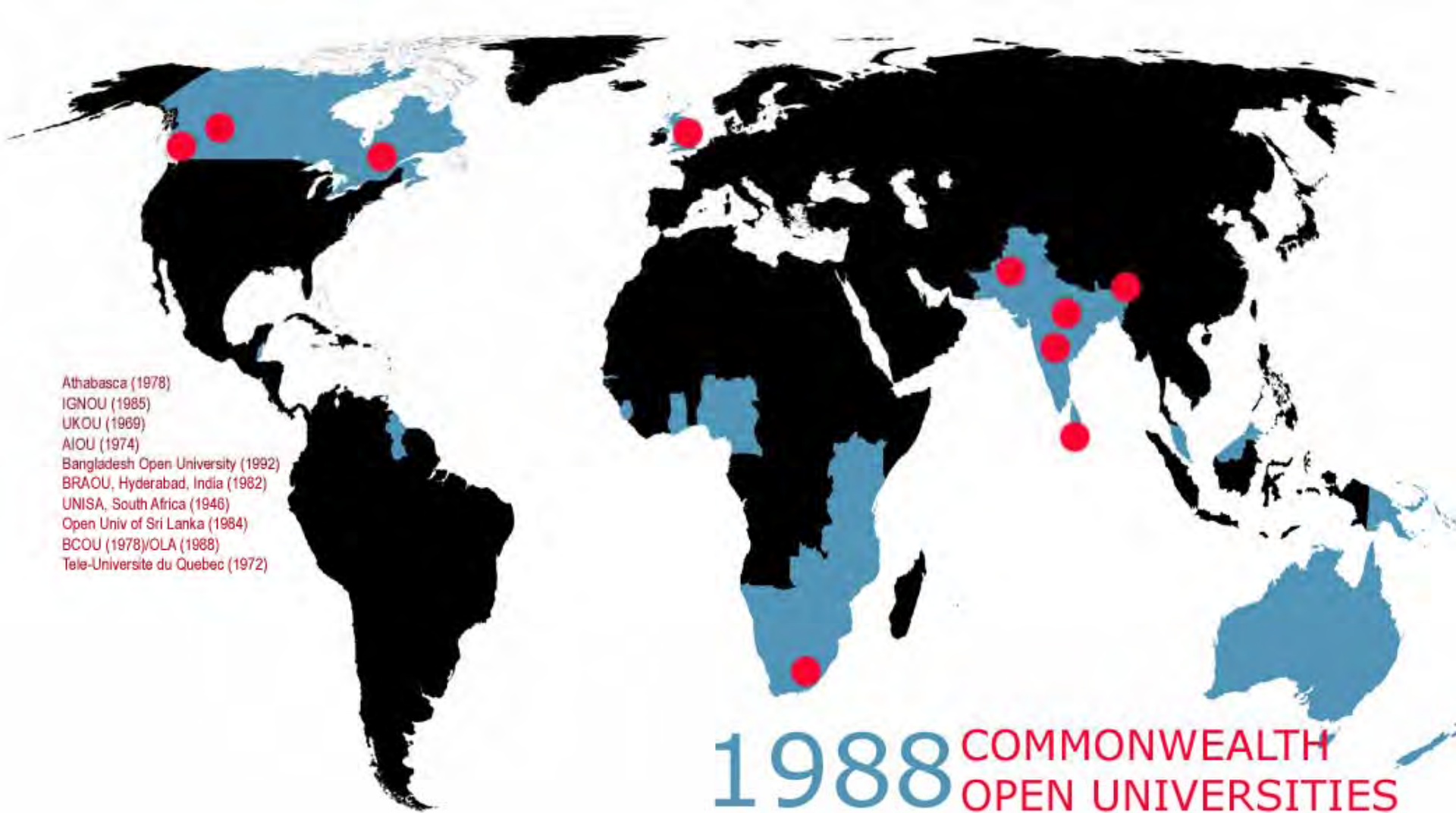
1	CAMBRIDGE	96%
2	LOUGHBOROUGH	95%
3=	LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS	88%
3=	YORK	88%
5	<b><u>THE OPEN UNIVERSITY</u></b>	<b>87%</b>
6	OXFORD	86%
7	IMPERIAL COLLEGE	82%
8	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	77%
9	ESSEX	77%

...and top for student satisfaction



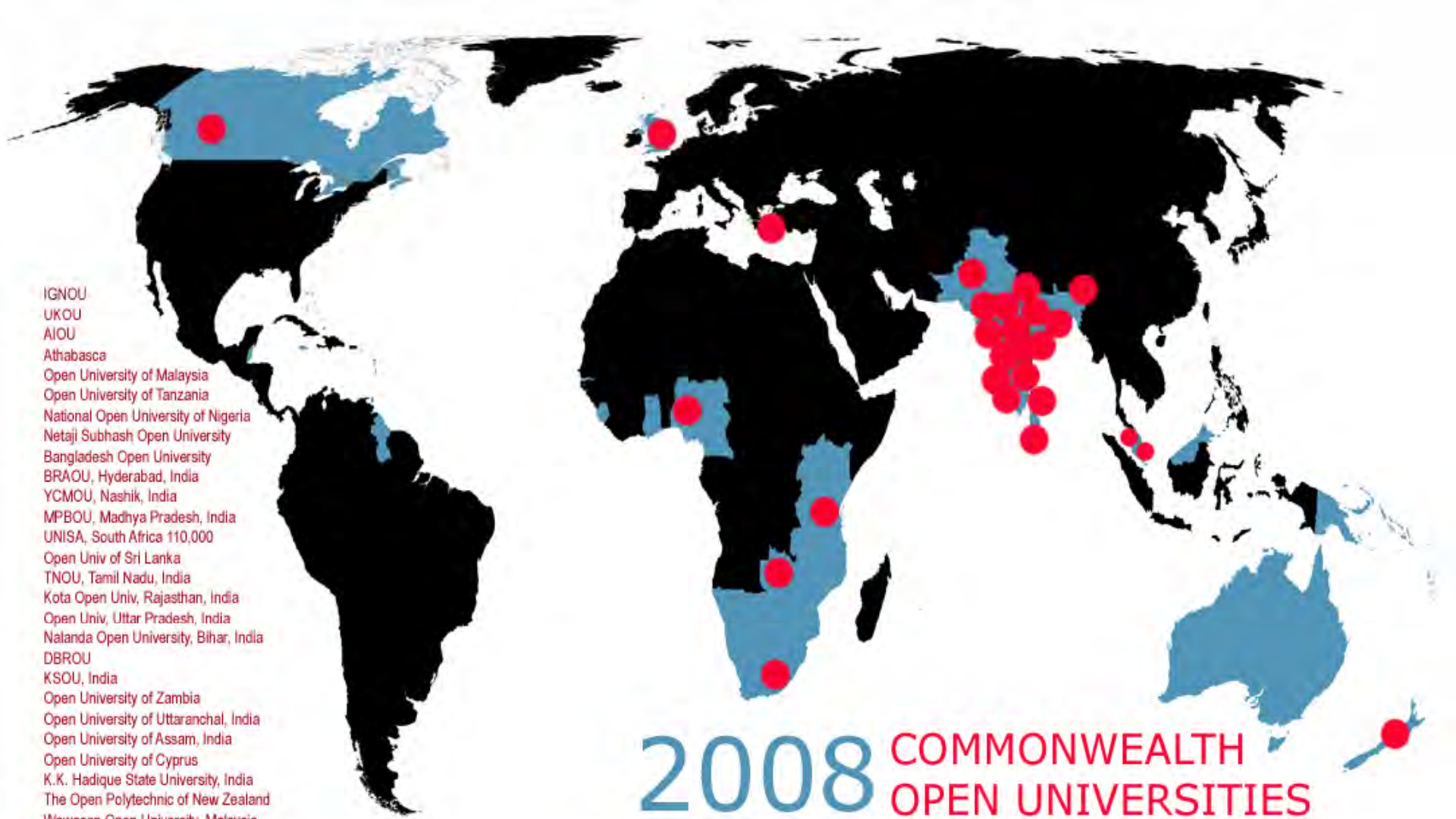
**The Open University**

- 200,000+ students
- **Costs 60 - 80% of conventional**



- 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 Indira Gandhi National Open University**

**INDIA**



**The Allama Iqbal Open University**

**PAKISTAN**



**The Bangladesh Open University**



Be inspired by other open universities remembering that:

- It takes time to build up a good reputation...
- But you can lose credibility very quickly!

# 4 SECTIONS

- Nature of technology in education
- ODL in higher education
- **Open Schooling**

# Key points:

- Expand secondary

# Key points:

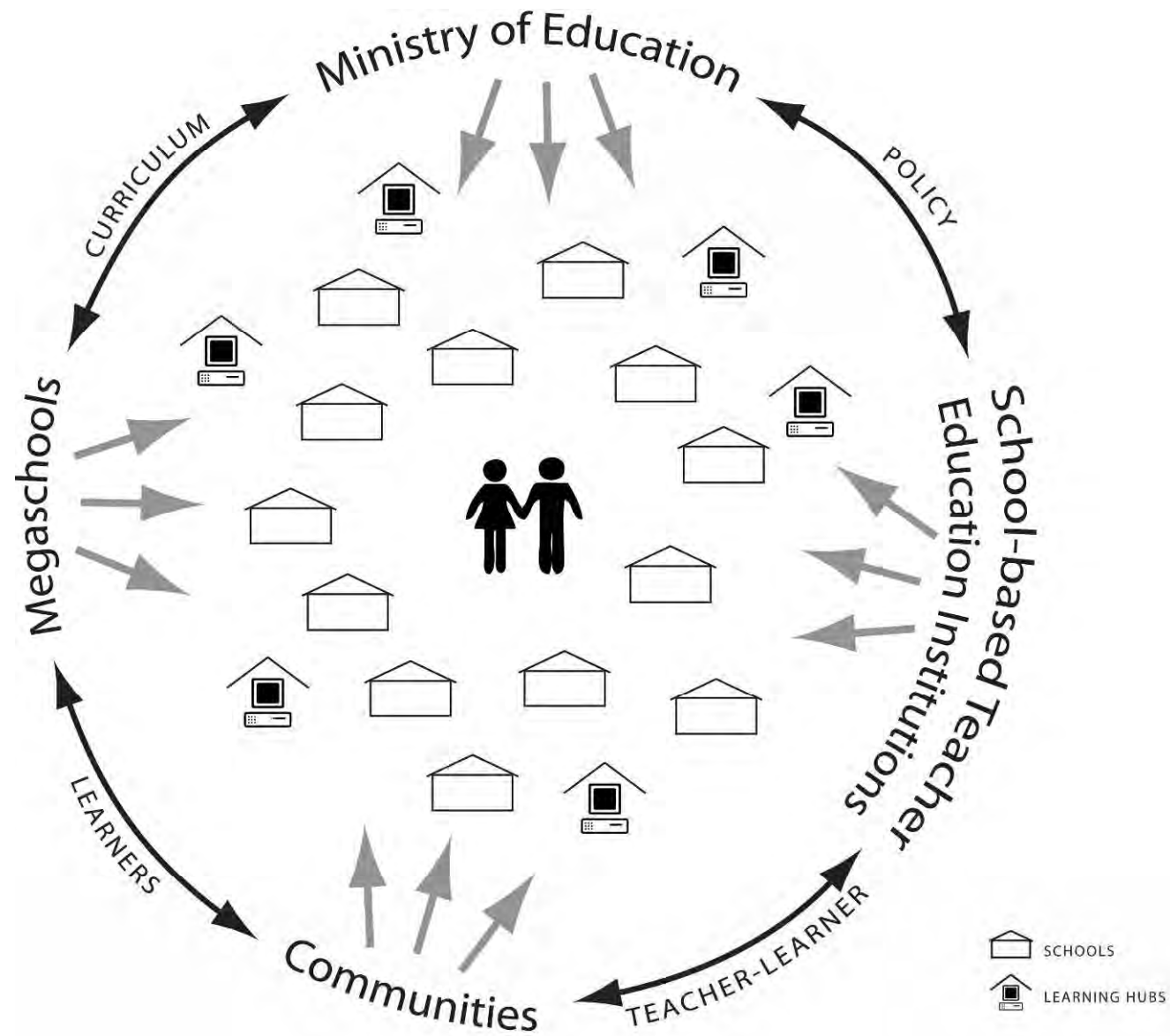
- Expand secondary
- Secondary is inefficient

# Key points:

- Expand secondary
- Secondary is inefficient
- Expand Open Schooling

# Key points:

- Expand secondary
- Secondary is inefficient
- Expand Open Schooling
- Educational ecosystem



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Educational Ecosystem

# Universal Primary Education



1999 to 2006: 40 million more children

# Surging to Secondary



200 to 400 million youth

# Surging to Secondary



200 to 400 million youth

# Conventional schools cannot cope!

ADD:

- Private schooling for the poor
- Applications of ICTs
- OPEN SCHOOLING

Develop and expand

**OPEN SCHOOLING**

and

**INTEGRATE IT**

with other approaches

# Blur the unhelpful distinction



Between formal and non-formal education

Build a bridge between  
knowledge acquisition



and skills development

# Reduce inequalities



# **OPEN SCHOOLING**

Is less expensive than

**CONVENTIONAL SCHOOLING**  
in most countries

and the difference in cost

**IS INCREASING!**



Professor  
Keith Lewin

If the unit cost of  
**SECONDARY**  
is more than double  
**PRIMARY**

A country will **NEVER** achieve

**UNIVERSAL SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**

# To develop learning systems that:

- operate at scale
- low cost
- consistent quality
- meet diverse needs

# ODL at scale

3 sub-systems:

- Administration/logistics
- Course Development
- Student Support

'essential reading for all involved in higher education'  
TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

# Mega-Universities & Knowledge Media

Technology Strategies  
for Higher Education

John S Daniel

JOHN S. DANIEL

open &  
flexible  
learning  
series

# MEGA-SCHOOLS, TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHERS

ACHIEVING EDUCATION FOR ALL

ROUTLEDGE

'essential reading for all involved in higher education'  
TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

# Mega-Universities & Knowledge Media

100,000 students

Technology Strategies  
for Higher Education

John S Daniel

JOHN S. DANIEL

open &  
flexible  
learning  
series

10,000 pupils

# MEGA-SCHOOLS, TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHERS

ACHIEVING EDUCATION FOR ALL

ROUTLEDGE

Learning  
made easy



Under MHRD, New Delhi

**AVI-840005**

**National Institute for Open Schooling –  
India**

**300,000 new pupils annually**



## Namibian College of Open Learning

28,000 pupils  
=  
40% of secondary



# OPEN SCHOOLS

Similar ODL methods:

- Administration/logistics
- Course Development
- Student Support

Different educational purposes



# OPEN SCHOOLING



# 3 types of Open Schools

- Complementary
- Alternative
- Integrative

# Complementary

Same curriculum and exams as  
conventional schools

Examples:

France, Botswana, Indonesia, Mexico, Namibia



# Complementary

Needs:

- Better integration with rest of system
- More autonomy in governance
- Higher performance

# Alternative

Different (usually more vocational) curriculum and sets its own exams, older pupils

Examples:



India, Papua New Guinea



# Alternative

Programmes that focus on life skills and work-related subjects are attractive to students and parents

## **An important aim for BOU:**

Create a complete programme of open schooling with courses for grades 4 & 5...

so that...

Students can go all the way from grade 3 through the JSC (6,7,8) and the SSC (9,10)

# The path for the BOU Open School?

Complementary >>>>

>>>> Alternative >>>>

>>>> Integrative

COL is there to help!

# Integrative

Placed at the heart of the  
educational system to  
strengthen it

Model for the future

# How to improve quality? (UNESCO)

- good learning materials
- focus on the curriculum
- regular, reliable assessment of learning
- pedagogical materials for teachers
- relevant content
- teach reading and writing
- structured teaching
- independent learning
- appropriate language of instruction
- larger classes with better inputs

# How to improve quality? (UNESCO)

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- larger classes with better inputs

# Collaborative Development of Learning Materials

- Digital formats:  
move, adapt, convert
- Open Educational Resources  
OERs

# Collaborative Development of Learning Materials

## COL & Hewlett Foundation



20 sets of self-instructional materials in the secondary curriculum (each is a complete syllabus for one grade 10 or 12 subject)



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING



# **The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)**

**Learning for  
Development**

# **COL IN THE COMMONWEALTH:**



**HOW CAN WE BEST SERVE  
BANGLADESH?**

# The Commonwealth of Learning

## WHAT IS IT?

- Intergovernmental
- CHOGM 1987 - Vancouver

# WHO IS IT?

- **Commonwealth-wide Board**
- **40 staff in Vancouver and New Delhi**
- **Networks across Commonwealth**
- **Focal points in 52 countries**
- **Joint work plan with UNESCO**

# WHERE IS IT?



**Vancouver**  
(Headquarters)



**New Delhi**  
(CEMCA)

# WHO PAYS?

**Major donors: (Board Members *ex officio*)**

**Canada**

**India**

**New Zealand**

**Nigeria**

**South Africa**

**United Kingdom**

**Voluntary \$\$\$ from 40**

**Commonwealth countries**

# WHO PAYS?

**Thank you Bangladesh**

**2008-09      \$ 31,740**

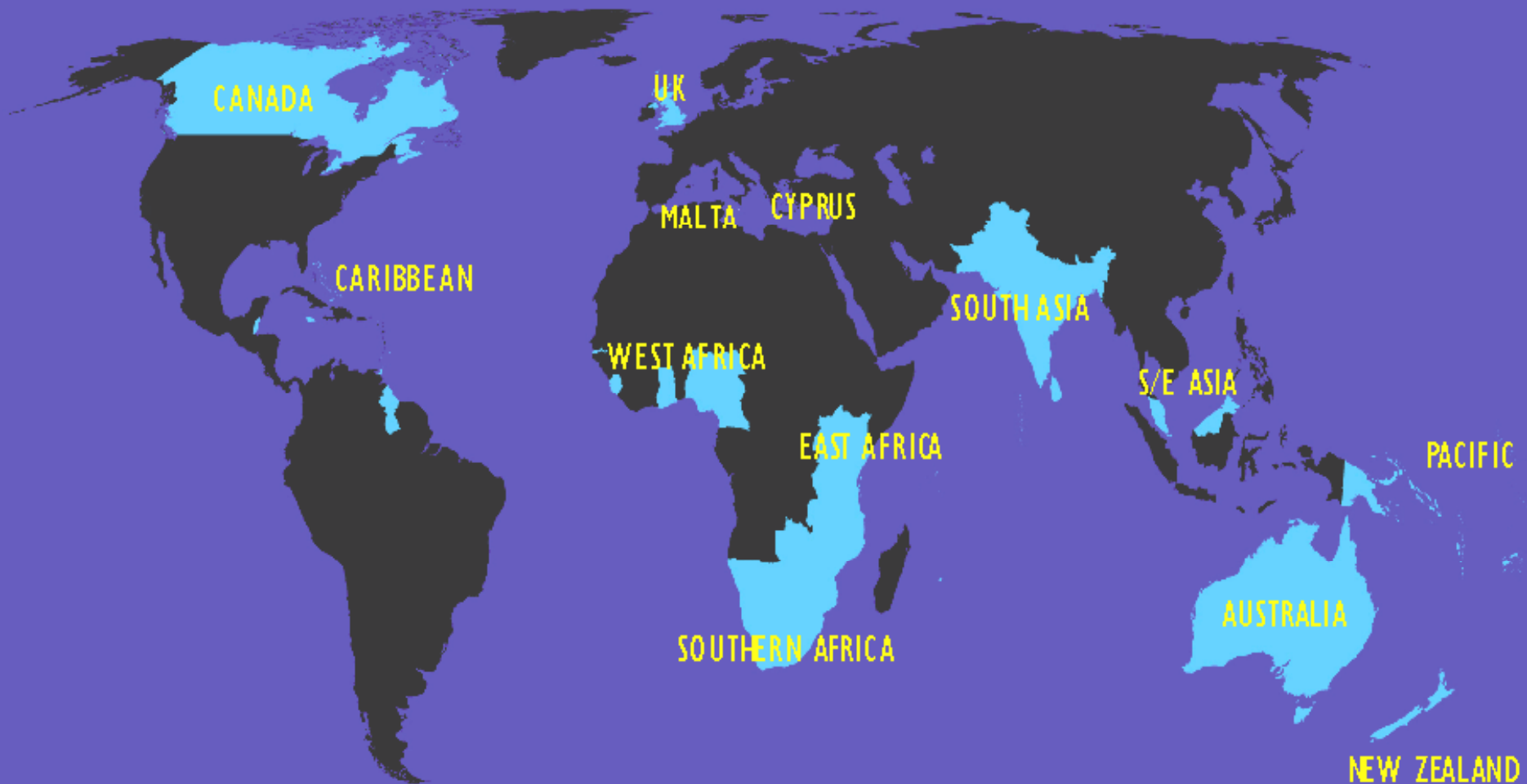
**2007-08      \$ 30,473**

**2006-07      \$ 31,486**

**for your contributions**

# COL's Geographical outreach

## The Commonwealth



**...and all over the Commonwealth!**

**COL IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH**

**2006-2009**

**COUNTRY REPORTS  
(53 countries)**



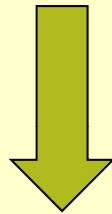
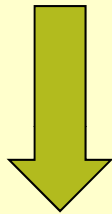
# Learning for Development Three-Year Plan 2009-2012



Approved by COL's Board  
(February 2009)

Ratified by Ministers at 17CCEM June 2009

# **COUNTRY ACTION PROPOSALS**



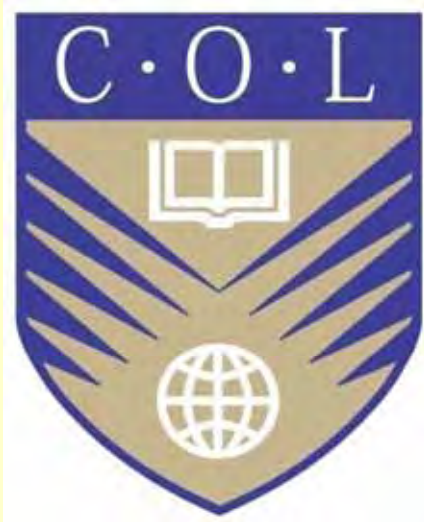
**COUNTRY ACTION PLANS  
2009-2012**

# EDUCATION

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

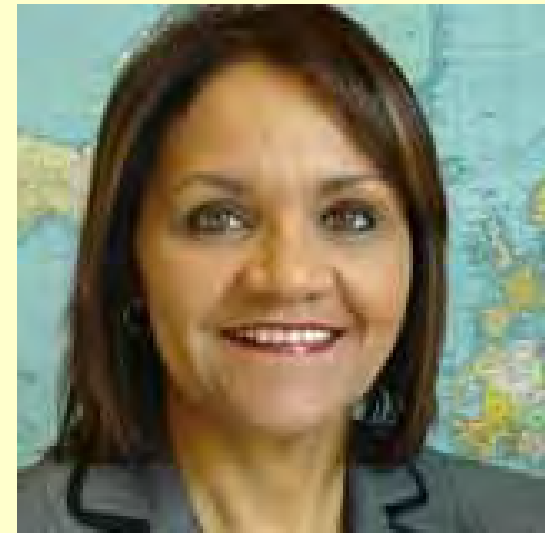
# LIVELIHOODS & HEALTH

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



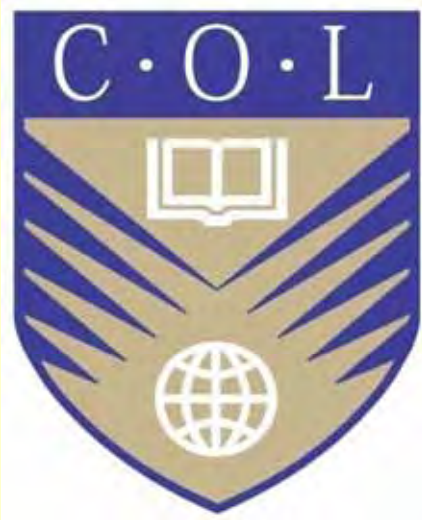
# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Open Schooling  
(Frances Ferreira)



# Open Schooling

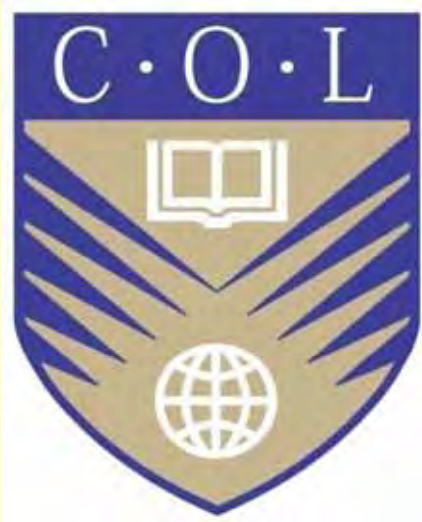
- Universal Primary Education = progress
- Now a Surge to Secondary
- Very important for Bangladesh



# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Teacher Education  
(Abdurrahman Umar)

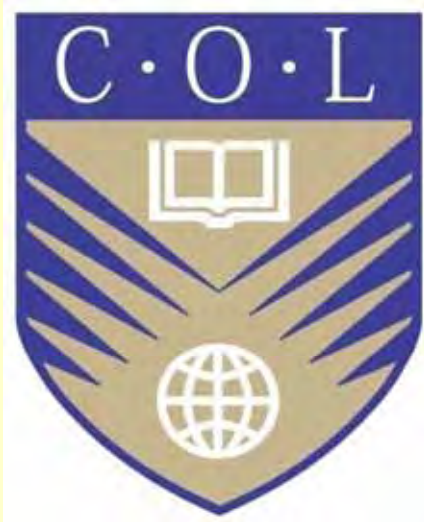




# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Higher Education  
(Willie Clarke-Okah)





# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

## Higher Education

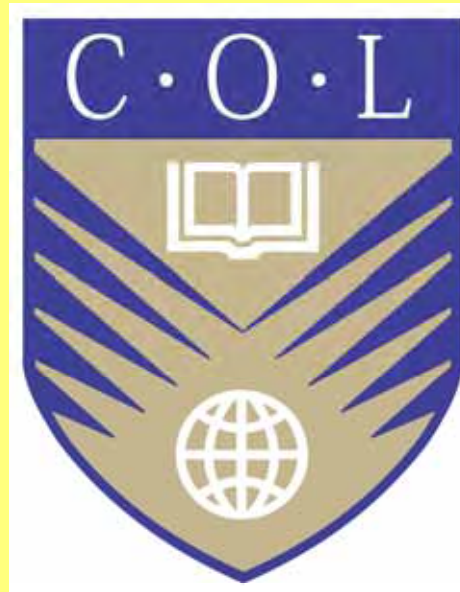
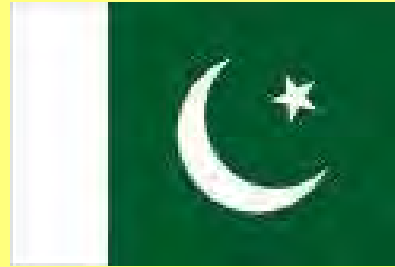
- Quality Assurance with distance learning & ICTs

# The Bangladesh Open University



**Case Study  
Workshop  
September  
2009**

**Commonwealth Executive MBA  
Commonwealth Executive MPA**



Commonwealth Executive MBA  
Commonwealth Executive MPA

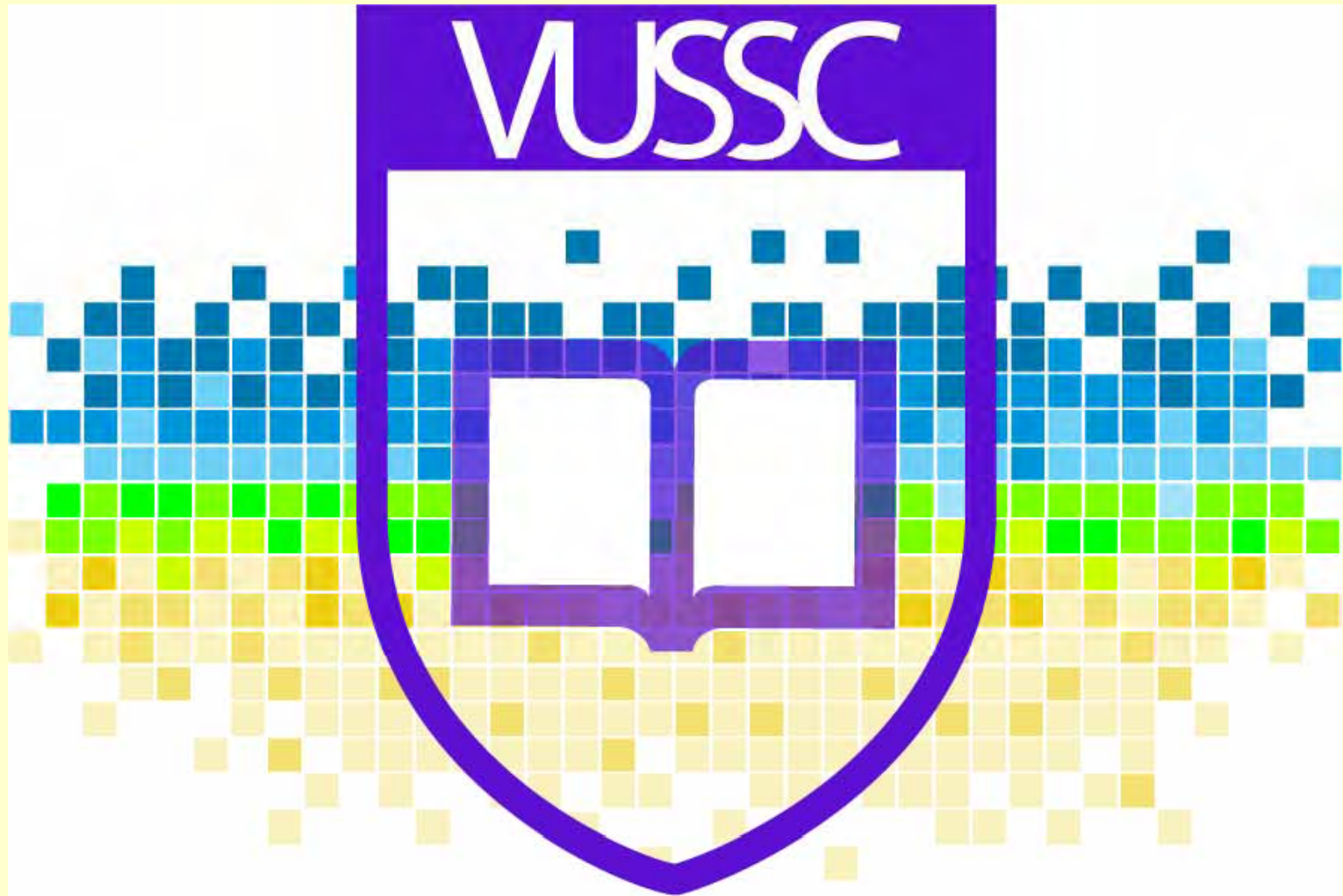
Why not a COL Chair at BOU?

BOU would provide salary and administrative support

COL would provide

~\$15,000 for 3 years

for research or capacity-building work



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



The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

# Not a new university but a collaborative network for developing eLearning materials



The Commonwealth of Learning





The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

# Paul West & John Lesperance



The Commonwealth of Learning





## The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth



**Dr Emma Kruse Vaai (Samoa)  
Chair, VUSSC Management Committee**





The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

# Transnational Qualifications Framework



The Commonwealth of Learning



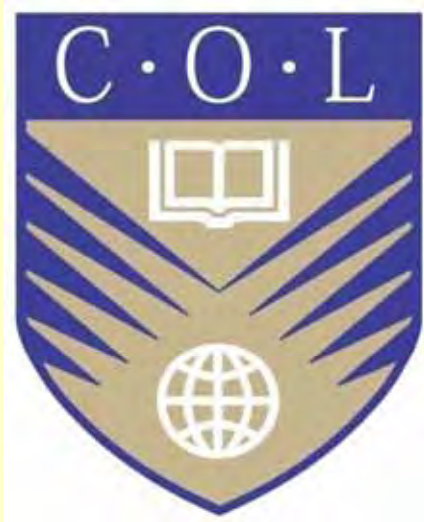
**BEWARE**



**DEGREE MILLS & BOGUS COLLEGES**

# LIVELIHOODS & HEALTH

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



# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Skills Development  
(Alison Mead Richardson)





# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

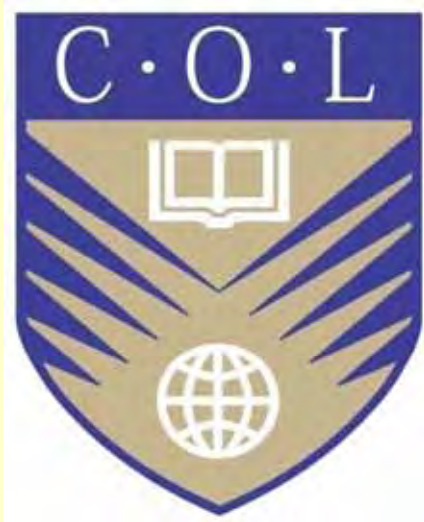
Learning for Farming  
(Kodhandaraman  
Balasubramanian)



# Lifelong Learning for Farmers Sri Lanka

## Increase income and employment

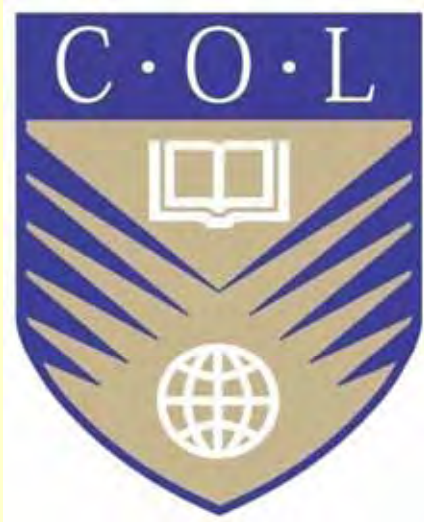




# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Healthy Communities  
(Ian Pringle)

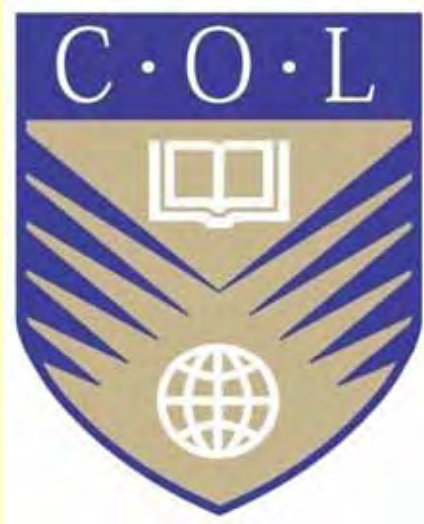




# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

Integrating eLearning  
(Trudi van Wyk)





# Three-Year Plan 2009-12

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



The Task now is to create  
**Country Action Plans**  
aligned to your priorities from COL's  
overall Three-Year Plan 2009-2012

Professor Asha Kanwar  
Vice-President  
Commonwealth of Learning



# **WHAT YOU GET FROM COL:**

- COL works for you**
- Expertise in learning + technology**
- South-south collaboration**
- Development without donors**
- Successful and transferable models**

# WHAT COL ASKS OF YOU:

- Dialogue about your priorities
- Track your Country Action Plan

Thank you  
for  
making  
Voluntary Contributions  
to COL

**BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY**

20 October 2009

**Thank you**



**Sir John Daniel**



**Prof Asha Kanwar**



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING





THANK YOU