Fostering Governmental Support for Open Educational Resources Internationally
Fostering Governmental Support for OER Internationally

Regional Policy Forum for Africa

UNISA, Pretoria, South Africa
21-22 February 2012

Setting the Scene – Outlining Expectations

Sir John Daniel, Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić & Trudi van Wyk
Commonwealth of Learning
Dr Blade Nzimande - Minister
Higher Education and Training

South African Parliament
Cape Town
WCHE session on OERs

*Imperative to ensure that all – developed and developing countries - are enabled to contribute to OERs…*
Professor
Mandla Makhanya
Principal & VC

UNISA
university of south africa
Why Unisa joined OERTen

Our vision to be "the African university in service of humanity", our locatedness on the African continent and our significant global footprint place us in the unique position to represent African perspectives within the OERTen network while displaying local relevance and global consciousness.
OER@AVU
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
RESSOURCES ÉDUCATIVES LIBRES
RECURSOS PARA EDUCAÇÃO ABERTA
UNISA Convocation 5 May 2010
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

The University of Science and Technology succeeded the Kumasi College of Technology which was established by a Government Ordinance on 6th October, 1961. Following the report of a University Commission which came out early 1961, Government decided to establish two independent Universities in Kumasi at Legon near Accra. The Kumasi College of Technology was thus transformed into a full-fledged University Kwame Nkrumah University of Science Technology by an Act of Parliament on 22nd August, 1961. By another act of Parliament, Act 559 of 1998, the University has been renamed Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.
Bamako, Mali  
4 octobre 2010  

Atelier sur le renforcement des capacités sur l’utilisation des ressources éducatives libres (REL) pour l’amélioration des la qualité de l’enseignement supérieur
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
Collaborative Development of OER

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)
2007
The Cape Town Open Education Declaration

2009
La Déclaration de Dakar sur les ressources éducatives libres
ICT in Education Leadership Forum in the Caribbean

ICT in Education in the Caribbean: Achievements and Challenges
UNESCO Competency Framework for Teachers

COL Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration

“Going beyond IT literacy”

“deepening teachers’ ICT skills”
“Open Educational Resources have great transformative potential and respond to a particular need in Africa”
In 2001 MIT put some 100 of its courses online for free and defined them as “. . . publicly available materials that are either a part of or a complete course usually from a higher-education institution such as a university or college.”
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)

educational materials that may be freely accessed, reused, modified and shared.
2002 FORUM on the Impact of OCW for Higher Education in Developing Countries

Declaration:

Participants expressed:
“their satisfaction and their wish to develop together a universal educational resource for the whole of humanity, to be referred to henceforth as Open Educational Resources”
WSIS Platform OER Community

- Largest online social network bringing together the wider OER community worldwide
- Launch 2010: To date 1600 Members and growing
- Based on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Platform
- Built on a Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) ELGG system
BUT...

Awareness of OER is still very limited among educational decision- and policy-makers
The World Conference on Higher Education
Paris - July 2009: New Dynamics of HE
Taking OERS beyond the OER Community: Policy & Capacity for Developing Countries

Zeynep Varoglu

Trudi van Wyk
Workshops

South Africa
Namibia
Malaysia
Mali
India
Tanzania
Mozambique

Plus three online forums
A Basic Guide to Open Educational Resources (OER)
Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER) in Higher Education

Zeynep Varoglu

Trudi van Wyk
Fostering Governmental Support for Open Educational Resources Internationally
not just culture
“We have a long way to go before the politicians will listen to these ideas and implement these reforms. But that also means we have time to build awareness around the changes that we need.”

Free Culture Larry Lessig (2004)
Survey of Governments

“an inventory of current practices and policies with respect to open access to educational material”
17 African Nations reported on their Status of OER

Results of OER Survey Questionnaires (February 2012)
Survey highlights – Africa

Policy in place:
South Africa

OER activity in regional groups:
Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Seychelles
Survey highlights – Africa

Government documents mention OER:
Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda

No policy but would like to have one:
Cameroon, Namibia, Niger, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia
Benefits and obstacles

- **Benefits**: flexible learning opportunities and cost-efficiency
- **Obstacles**: copyright, sustainability, connectivity (connectivity even for SA)

**BUT**

- Important for developing countries to be active in knowledge production
Survey highlights – Africa

Connectivity, culture, language challenges: Mozambique, Niger
Regional Policy Forums

- Caribbean – January
- Africa – February
- Latin America – March
- Europe – April
- Asia & Pacific – April
- Arab States - May
World Congress on Open Educational Resources
Paris – June 20-22 – 2012

Drafting a Declaration for the Congress
Paris Declaration – an evolutionary process

2004
Lessig – “engage politicians”

2007
Cape Town Declaration
“make open education a high priority”

2009
La Déclaration de Dakar
“l’émergence de réglementations sur les REL”

2009
UNESCO General Conference
“greater political engagement”

2012
PARIS DECLARATION
THE AIM

“to get greater buy-in from governments to the promotion of OER and of open licences generally.”
Imagine a World
Without Free Knowledge

For over a decade, we have spent millions of hours building the largest encyclopedia in human history. Right now, the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that could fatally damage the free and open Internet. For 24 hours, to raise awareness, we are blacking out Wikipedia. Learn more.

Make your voice heard

Facebook  Google+  Twitter
“A technology has given us a new freedom”
IMPACT
We believe that this joint UNESCO – COL project will support you in getting the concept of open availability of materials into the mainstream of education.
THANK YOU

For text and slides: www.col.org/speeches