

Board Retreat

- 1. Format of the Retreat
- 2. Planning milestones
- 3. The context of planning

The Commonwealth of Learning: Past, Present and Future

1. Format of the Retreat

2. Planning milestones

3-YEAR PLANNING CYCLES

Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers

Cape Town 2006 > 2006-2009 Plan

Role of the Board

2005 June: Discussion at retreat

2006 January: First draft of 2006-09 Plan

2006 June: Board Approval

2006 December: Presentation to CCEM

Internal Process

2004 July: Planning Committee set up

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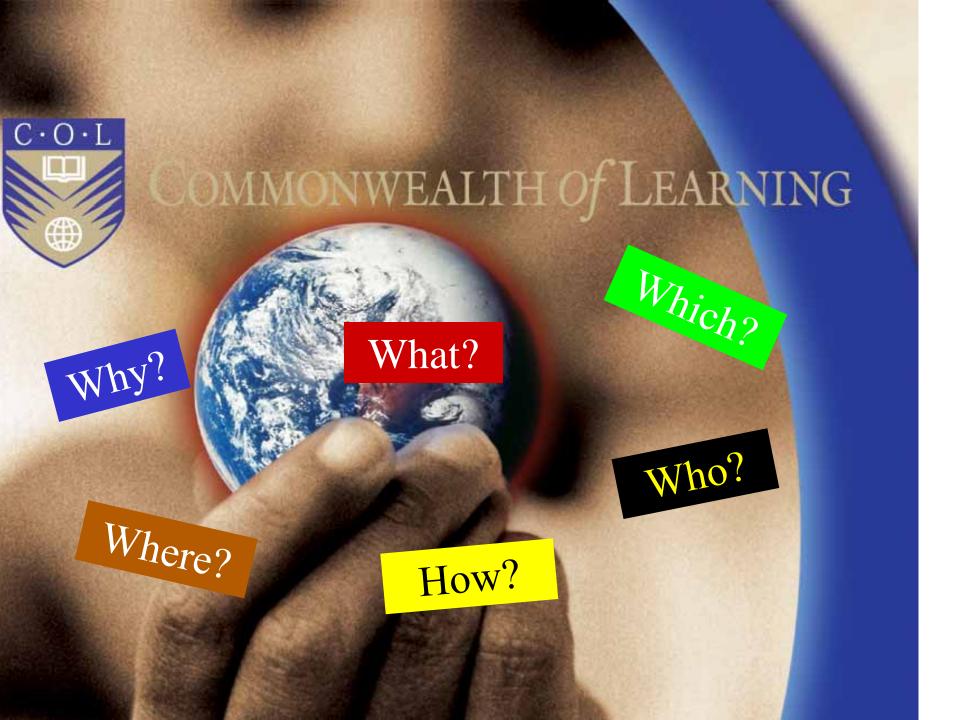
2004/05: Expert regional scans

2004/05: 13 consultations (so far)

2004/05: Views of Commonwealth leaders

2005 June: This Retreat

The Commonwealth of Learning: Past, Present and Future





Why?

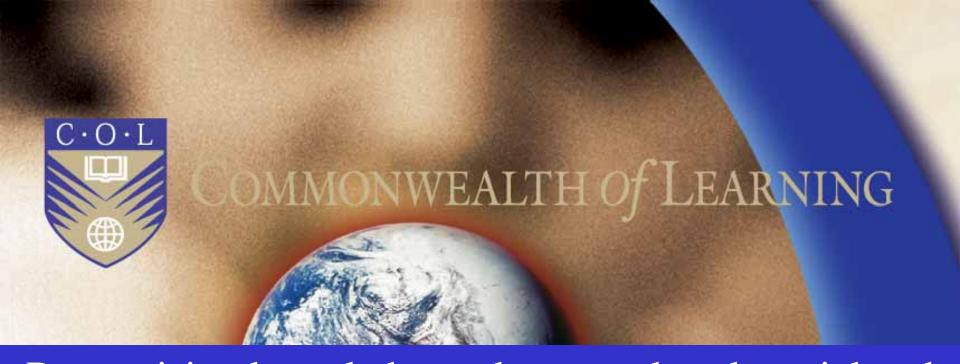
- Move courses instead of students
- Technology for teaching/learning

Why?

- Give people fish

or

- Teach them to fish



Recognising knowledge as key to cultural, social and economic development, The Commonwealth of Learning is committed to assisting Commonwealth member governments to take full advantage of open, distance and technology-mediated learning strategies to provide increased and equitable access to education and training for all their citizens.

Why?

"All indications are that COL's mission is more relevant than ever"

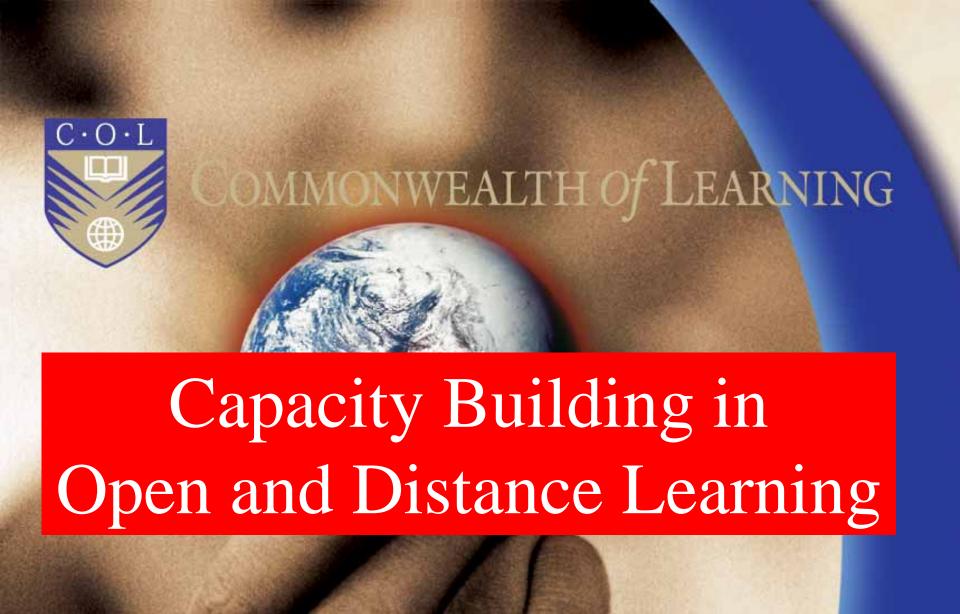
Why?

"The policy soil in developing countries is more fertile than ever for COL's work"



What does COL do?

- Outputs?
- Sectors?
- Modes of operation?





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The outputs:

- Policy
- Systems
- Applications





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What does COL do?

Which sectors?



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The Purpose: Learning for Development (Millennium Development

Goals)



Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Gender equality
- Health
- Environment
- Partnership

What does COL do?

Which sectors?

- Poverty eradication, agriculture, environment and health
- Education, gender and literacy
- Democracy, good governance and civil society.



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How does COL operate?

- 1. Situational analysis
- 2. Getting people together
- 3. Initiating programmes
- 4. Operation and implementation
- 5. Outcomes
- 6. Recognition of achievement
- 7. Evaluation and Reflection

COL's Qualities

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- Competence/experience of staff

COL's Qualities

- Span of contacts

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- No HQ vs. Field split

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- No HQ vs. Field split
- Development with a human face
- Hearing the voice of the poor

COL's Qualities

- Networks of allies

COL's Qualities

- Networks of allies
- Credible expertise

COL's qualities: consequences

- Work directly for results
- National/Commonwealth impact
- Connected to grassroots
- South-south cooperation
- Self-replicating innovations

Ways of working

- Partnerships and alliances

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- Sharing knowledge

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- Equipping and training organisations

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- Evaluating and learning lessons



Where?

- Remain "contribution blind"???

- 27 Commonwealth states contribute (June 2003 to June 2005)

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- New contributions coming:

(Fiji, Kiribas, Vanuatu)

- Renewed contributions coming:

(Bangladesh (1996); Pakistan (1995); Ghana (2002))



Who?

- Who funds COL?

- With whom does COL work?

- Who works for COL?

Who?

- Who funds COL?

Three trends:

- More focused COL programme

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MAY CREATE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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Who?

"Amongst the many pleasures of my job, the greatest is working with such an intelligent, dedicated and productive group of colleagues"

1. What should COL do? Are you content that we should continue to identify policies, systems and applications as key outputs?

2. Which sectors should COL focus on? Are you satisfied with the notion of learning for development in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals? What about the balance of our work between the various goals?

3. How do you want COL to operate?

I have talked about the types of activities that we conduct; about COL's special qualities and about our ways of working.

Does all this make sense?

4. Where COL should work?
Should we continue to be contribution blind in deciding where to work?

5. How do you, as the Board, propose that we address the unsatisfactory situation of unfulfilled pledges? Are there better ways of raising extrabudgetary funds?

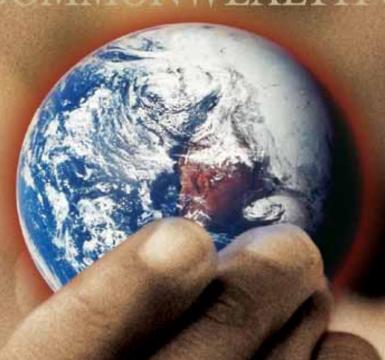
6. Partnerships with other intergovernmental agencies: your advice please.

THE FINAL QUESTION

What can we do together; Board, President and staff, to increase further COL's impact for good?



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THANK YOU