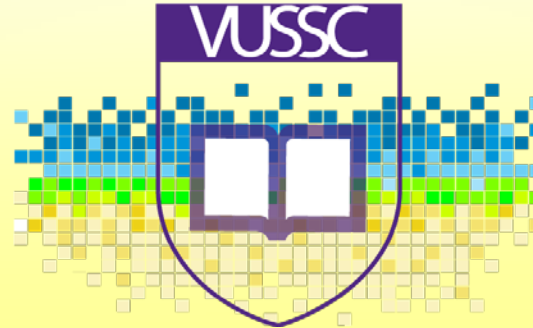




COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING



Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

Interlocutors Meeting

Asha Kanwar & John Lesperance
Commonwealth of Learning



Ministerial concerns

- Lack of capacity in ICT
- Brain drain
- Inadequate access to tertiary education
- Uncertainty about meeting MDG & EFA goals

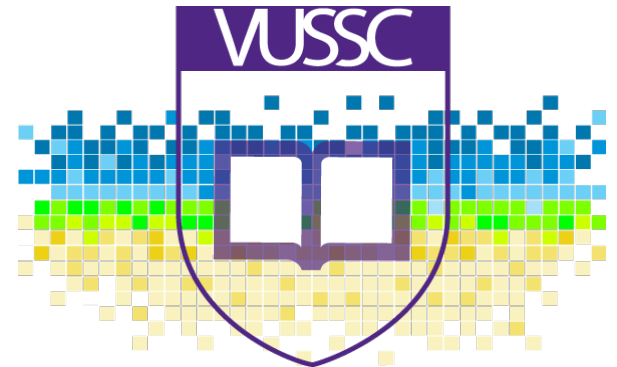


The Idea: a Virtual University for Small States

- The triennial Conference of Commonwealth Ministers of Education, Halifax, Canada 2000
- Technical Advisory Committee investigation - 2002
- Presented and endorsed by Ministers of Education in 2003, at 15 CCEM, Edinburgh, Scotland

The Vision: VUSSC Must Be Unique

- Enable small states to be contributors as well as consumers
- Strengthen existing institutions
- Enable delivery in different formats, and be adaptable to different technological environments



The VUSSC Concept

- A network rather than an institution
- Foster collaboration
- Strengthen the capacity of national education institutions and individuals
- Use online technologies
- Create and share Open Educational Resources
- Create a system for the recognition of qualifications

VUSSC: A Network



Management Committee

Asia and the Pacific

Emma Kruse Vaai, Samoa

Fawaz Shareef, Maldives

The Caribbean

Leon Higgs, The Bahamas

Karen Rosemin, Trinidad & Tobago

Africa and the Mediterranean

Ricaud Auckbur, Mauritius

Mamolete Mohapi, Lesotho

What has the VUSSC achieved?

- Professionals trained in ICT skills
- Free Educational Resources (OER) developed
- Courses offered
- VUSSC Website and online Learning Management System in place



VUSSC achievements

- Trained 21,897 people in IT skills
- Enrolled 673 learners in VUSSC courses

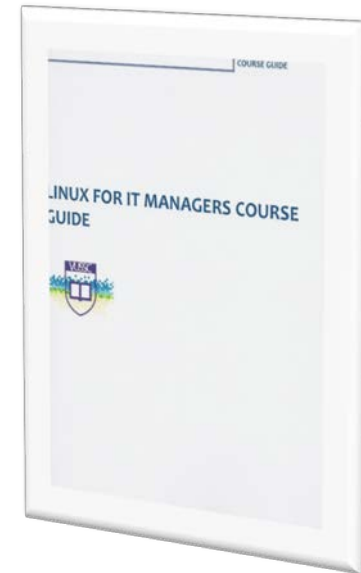


9 institutions in 8 countries

- National University of Samoa 
- University of the West Indies (Open Campus)  UWI
- Botswana College of Open and Distance Learning 
- Barbados Community College 
- University of Seychelles 
- Seychelles Tourism Academy 
- Villa College Maldives 
- Open University of Mauritius 
- University of Brunei 

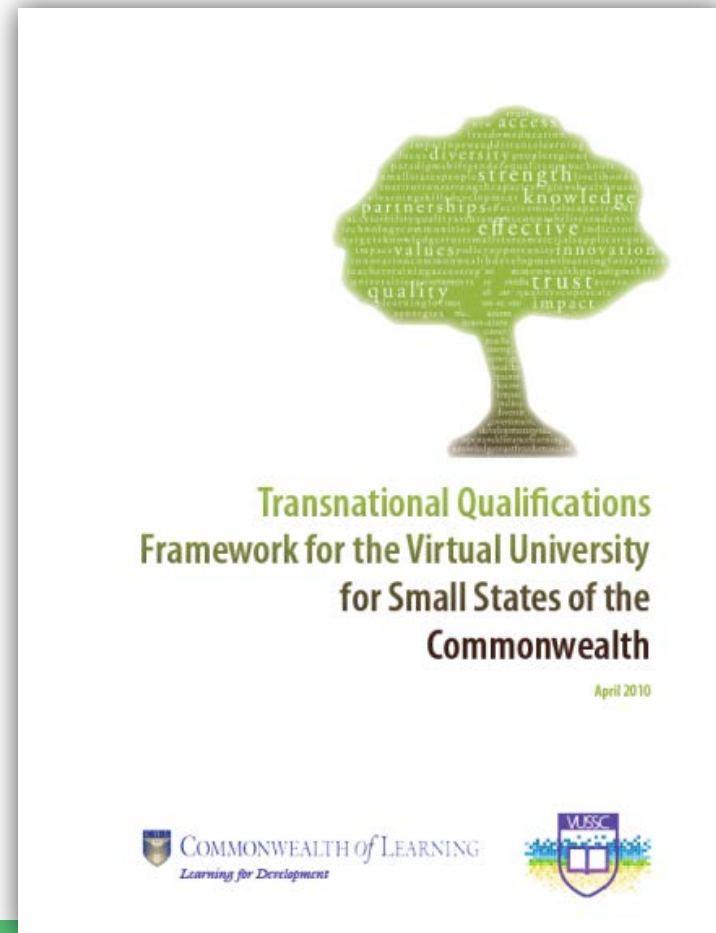
VUSSC Courses

- Tour Guiding
- Starting your own Business
- Sustainable Tourism
- Life Skills
- Disaster Management
- Linux for IT Managers
- Port Management - Stevedoring
- Managing and Facilitation Instruction
- Online Learning
- Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture for Small States
- Bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship
- Master in Educational Leadership
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education - January 2014



Development of a Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF)

- Recognition of small states qualifications
- Improve credit transfer and
- Promote learners' mobility



Some of the Institutions that participate in VUSSC

-  National University of Samoa
-  National University of Lesotho
-  Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning (BOCODOL)
-  University of Swaziland
-  Maldives College of Higher Education
-  Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit, Malta
-  University of Papua New Guinea
-  Antigua State College
-  Dominica State College
-  University of Belize
-  Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College, St. Kitts & Nevis
-  College of The Bahamas
-  University of Seychelles
-  Namibian Open Learning Network
-  Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, St. Lucia
-  St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College
-  St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers College
-  University of Cyprus
-  Polytechnic of Namibia
-  University of Mauritius
-  Seychelles Agricultural Agency
-  Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Barbados
-  Seychelles Maritime Training Centre
-  Vanuatu Institute of Technology
-  Caribbean Maritime Institute
-  Lesotho College of Education
-  Maldives National University
-  Tonga Institute of Higher Education
-  Open University of Mauritius

First Graduation

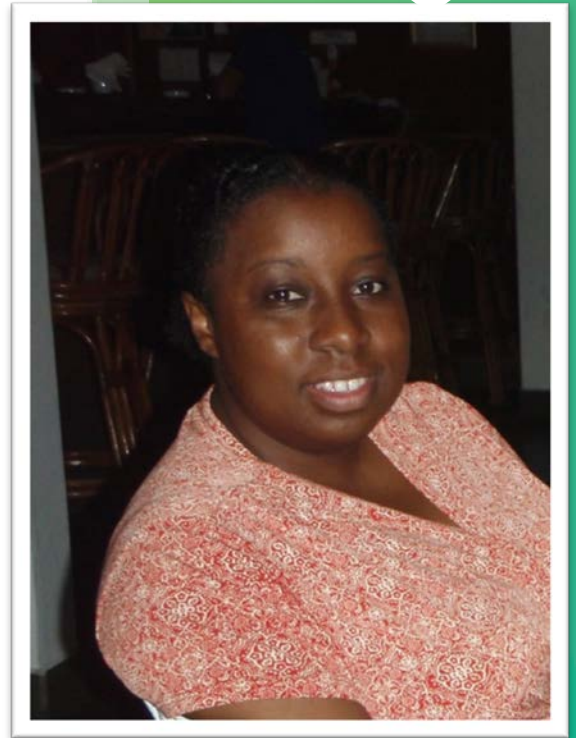
First cohort graduate
after following a full-time
Diploma in Sustainable
Agriculture for Small
States, Samoa



Touching lives

After having participated in a VUSSC workshop, Marcia Musgrove from the Bahamas went on to do a Master's degree in Curriculum, Instruction & Technology and became an OER promoter

“I think of it as the VUSSC Snowball Effect ...in the tropics. I remain grateful”

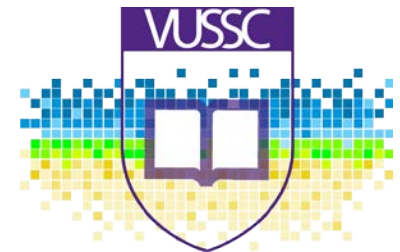


The Commonwealth-COL Collaboration

- Economic Division - *International Architecture for Environment & Sustainable Development*
- Commonwealth Youth Programme - development of competency standards and referencing of the *Youth Work Standards to the TQF*

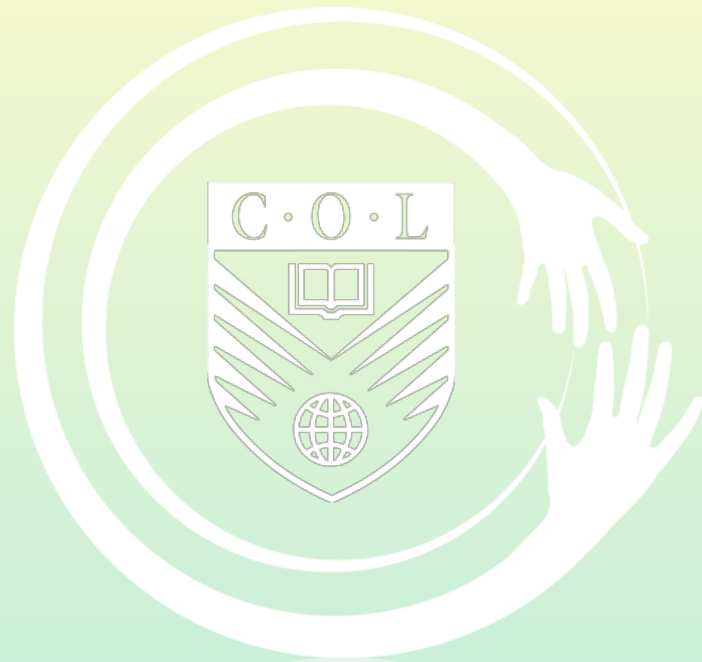


The Commonwealth



VUSSC - The Future

- Promote access to quality tertiary education
- Build institutional capacity to offer eLearning courses
- Promote mobile learning
- Register qualifications on the TQF
- Contribute to Commonwealth cooperation



THANK YOU

