Commonwealth of Learning

Board Retreat

15-16 June 2005
1. Format of the Retreat
2. Planning milestones
3. The context of planning

15-16 June 2005
Commonwealth of Learning

The Commonwealth of Learning: Past, Present and Future

15-16 June 2005
1. Format of the Retreat

15-16 June 2005
2. Planning milestones

15-16 June 2005
3-YEAR PLANNING CYCLES

Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers


Edinburgh 2003 >> 2003-2006 Plan

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
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Internal Process

2004 July: Planning Committee set up
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Internal Process

2004 July: Planning Committee set up
2004/05: Expert regional scans
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

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2004/05: 13 consultations (so far)
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2004/05: Views of Commonwealth leaders
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Internal Process

2004 July: Planning Committee set up
2004/05: Expert regional scans
2004/05: 13 consultations (so far)
2004/05: Views of Commonwealth leaders
2005 June: This Retreat
Commonwealth of Learning

The Commonwealth of Learning: Past, Present and Future

15-16 June 2005
Why?
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Why?
- Move courses instead of students
- Technology for teaching/learning
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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.
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Why?

“All indications are that COL’s mission is more relevant than ever”
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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?
Capacity Building in Open and Distance Learning
The outputs:
- Policy
- Systems
- Applications
Open and Distance Learning for Development
The outputs:
- Policy
- Systems
- Applications
The Commonwealth of Learning

What does COL do?

Which sectors?
The Purpose: Learning for Development (Millennium Development Goals)
Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Gender equality
- Health
- Environment
- Partnership
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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
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COL’s Qualities

- Concrete action
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COL’s Qualities

- Concrete action
- Small: free of hierarchy
The Commonwealth of Learning

COL’s Qualities

- Concrete action
- Small: free of hierarchy
- RBM: smart operations
The Commonwealth of Learning

COL’s Qualities

- Concrete action
- Small: free of hierarchy
- RBM: smart operations
- Competence/experience of staff
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COL’s Qualities

- Span of contacts
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COL’s Qualities

- Span of contacts

- No HQ vs. Field split
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COL’s Qualities

- Span of contacts
- No HQ vs. Field split
- Development with a human face
- Hearing the voice of the poor
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COL’s Qualities

- Networks of allies
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COL’s Qualities

- Networks of allies
- Credible expertise
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COL’s qualities: consequences

- Work directly for results
- National/Commonwealth impact
- Connected to grassroots
- South-south cooperation
- Self-replicating innovations
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Ways of working
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Ways of working

- Partnerships and alliances
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Ways of working

- Partnerships and alliances
- Sharing knowledge
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Ways of working

- Partnerships and alliances
- Sharing knowledge
- Equipping and training organisations
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Ways of working

- Partnerships and alliances
- Sharing knowledge
- Equipping and training organisations
- Guiding and nurturing
PREPARING THE 2006-09 PLAN

Ways of working

- Partnerships and alliances
- Sharing knowledge
- Equipping and training organisations
- Guiding and nurturing
- Evaluating and learning lessons
Where?
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Where?

- Remain “contribution blind” ???
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- 27 Commonwealth states contribute
  (June 2003 to June 2005)
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- 27 Commonwealth states contribute
  (June 2003 to June 2005)

- New contributions coming:
  (Fiji, Kiribas, Vanuatu)

- Renewed contributions coming:
  (Bangladesh (1996); Pakistan (1995); Ghana (2002))
Who?
Who?
- Who funds COL?
- With whom does COL work?
- Who works for COL?
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Who?

- Who funds COL?
Extrabudgetary funds

Three trends:

- More focused COL programme
Extrabudgetary funds

Three trends:

- More focused COL programme
- Accessing agency funds difficult
Extrabudgetary funds

Three trends:

- More focused COL programme
- Accessing agency funds difficult
- Consulting firms
Extrabudgetary funds

Three trends:
- More focused COL programme
- Accessing agency funds difficult
- Consulting firms

MAY CREATE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
The Commonwealth of Learning

Who?

- Who funds COL?
- With whom does COL work?
The Commonwealth of Learning

Who?

- Who funds COL?
- With whom does COL work?
- Who works for COL?
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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”
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS

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?
THANK YOU