



Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Perth, Australia

October 2011

Commonwealth of Learning (COL) STORY IDEAS

This document is available online at:

www.col.org/news/media

COL's report to Commonwealth Heads of Government

COL's report to CHOGM looks like this (www.col.org/COL-CHOGMreport-photo). The documentation is this wrap-around (www.col.org/COL-CHOGMreport-wrap) to a brochure on "COL and the Millennium Development Goals" which is available at www.col.org/MDG.

COL is also providing Foreign Ministers with preliminary versions of the individual Country Reports for 2009-2012 that COL will be presenting to Commonwealth Education Ministers when they meet in Mauritius in August 2012.

"Australia fails the world's poorest on education"

Opinion piece by Colin Latchem, published in *The Australian* (Higher Education) on 12 August 2011: "Australia, one of the Commonwealth's wealthiest members and a country planning to spend \$4.8 billion on development assistance in 2011-12, contributes not one dollar to an important initiative [the Commonwealth of Learning] that provides education to the world's poorest."

www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/opinion/australias-fails-the-worlds-poorest-on-education/story-e6frgcko-1226113799901

OR: <http://tinyurl.com/TheAustralian-COL>

The Commonwealth of Learning is hopeful that the Government of Australia will announce at the 2011 CHOGM that they will be re-joining COL's funding partnership.

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Open Educational Resources

The Commonwealth of Learning is strongly committed to the creation, adaptation and use of Open Educational Resources because they have the potential to increase access to education while cutting costs and improving quality. They are, therefore, an important element of COL's mission of *Learning for Development*.

Commentary by COL President/International Guidelines, Sir John Daniel, published in *University World News*, 11 September 2011.

www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110909190605514

OR: <http://tinyurl.com/uwn-col-oer>

COL's Policy on Open Educational Resources

www.col.org/progServ/policy/Pages/oer.aspx

A Basic Guide to Open Educational Resources, prepared for UNESCO and COL

www.col.org/oerBasicGuide

Virtual University for Small States:

Hundreds of teachers and officials have acquired advanced ICT skills through this 32-country network. It produces and shares eCourses in skills-related areas within a new Transnational Qualifications Framework and links them together in a common portal.

www.col.org/VUSSC

COL Clipping: www.col.org/clippingVUSSC

Web page: www.col.org/vussc

Web site and portal: www.vussc.info

Lifelong Learning for Farmers:

Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) is a successful grassroots model for increasing rural prosperity that uses ICT to link banks and universities to village communities to exploit new economic opportunities. It is now being implemented at scale by extending the use of knowledge info-mediaries. www.col.org/L3Farmers

COL Clipping: www.col.org/clippingL3Farmers

Web page: www.col.org/L3Farmers

Open Schooling:

Growing success in achieving universal primary education is creating a surge of demand for secondary schooling that many governments cannot afford to satisfy by building more schools. Open Schooling can deliver quality education cost-effectively at scale.

COL Clipping: www.col.org/clippingOS

Web page: www.col.org/OpenSchooling

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Teacher Education:

Achieving the MDGs and EFA will require millions of new teachers and on-the-job training for millions more unqualified teachers already in post. Teacher education institutions will not be able meet these demands without adopting the methods of ODL and COL will help them do this.

Teacher Education: The Role of Open and Distance Learning: www.col.org/TeacherEd_roleODL
Web page: www.col.org/TeacherEducation

Child Friendly Schools

In partnership with UNICEF, COL is working to enhance the quality of education in schools by mainstreaming Child-Friendly Schools models and approaches into the pre-service and in-service curricula in ten countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Trinidad & Tobago and Zambia.

COL Clipping: www.col.org/clippingCFS

Web page: www.col.org/CFS

Flexible Skills Development

COL assists with the development of policy for the use of ODL in skills development, notably for the informal economy, and works with partners to design and deliver quality courses that are increasingly rich in ICT. Partnerships among institutions at different stages of development operate in a spirit of south-south cooperation.

Web page: www.col.org/SkillsDevelopment

Healthy Communities

COL's media empowerment model has proven its effectiveness for bringing health messages to communities. It is now being scaled up by training health groups and communities to create and share learning materials and make effective use of community media, especially community radio.

Web page: www.col.org/HealthyCommunities

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia: www.cemca.org

Higher Education

Many universities face burgeoning demand after a period of neglect and some countries are creating open universities. COL facilitates the expansion of quality higher education and the sharing of programmes among institutions, with a special focus on helping institutions adopt cost-effective quality assurance processes.

Web page: www.col.org/HigherEducation

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More about COL:

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. COL helps developing Commonwealth countries to increase access to learning using distance education and appropriate technologies.

Through its own resources and its extensive networks, COL provides a wealth of services and collaborative opportunities for policy makers, institutions and distance education practitioners. COL promotes policies and systems to make innovation sustainable and works with international partners to build models, create materials, enhance organisational capacity and nurture networks that facilitate learning in support of development goals.

COL's mission focuses on helping Commonwealth member states to use technology as a means of increasing the scope, scale, quality and impact of their education and training systems. The application of technology through ODL techniques has shown its power and value in many countries and for many purposes.

Further information:

COL's website: www.col.org

Quick Picks for the media: www.col.org/news/media (*this document is available here*)

News releases: www.col.org/newsreleases

COL Clippings: www.col.org/clippings

Connections newsletter: www.col.org/connections

COL blog: www.col.org/blog

Contacts:

Media liaison at CHOGM: Dave Wilson, www.col.org/dwilson Local mobile: 04269 51702

Spokespersons and onsite personalities:

- The Honourable Burchell Whiteman, O.J., Chair of COL's Board: www.col.org/bwhiteman
- Sir John Daniel, President and C.E.O.: www.col.org/jdaniel and www.col.org/speeches
- Professor Asha Kanwar, Vice President: www.col.org/akanwar
- Dr. Venkataraman Balaji, Director, Technology & Knowledge Management: www.col.org/vbalaji