COL in the Commonwealth
2009–2011 Country Reports

FOR: MALDIVES

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The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is proud of its strong country focus. While COL strives to achieve synergy in its programme across the whole Commonwealth, it also considers itself accountable for its work in each Member State. *COL in the Commonwealth* reviews COL’s work over the last two years (2009-2011) country by country.

At the beginning of the 2009-2012 triennium a *Country Action Plan* was developed to guide COL’s activities in each country and ensure that they were consistent with the national priorities of the government. These reports describe the implementation of these plans. Final versions of these reports will be presented to the 18th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (18CCEM) at the end of the triennium in 2012.

Ministers were enthusiastic about the previous issue of *COL in the Commonwealth* that was submitted to 17CCEM in Kuala Lumpur in 2009. At the request of Ministers these reports cover all Member States of the Commonwealth, showing not only what COL has done in the developing countries but also how its work relates to the international development priorities of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The reviews are grouped under four regions: Africa (and the Mediterranean), Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The reports for each group of countries begin with a short account of the regional activities which COL has promoted in 2009-2011.

Member States also value COL’s Pan-Commonwealth work, which benefits from the unifying characteristics of the Commonwealth such as a common language, similar constitutional and legal frameworks, and a shared commitment to the values of peace, democracy, equality and good government. Some of the Pan-Commonwealth activities and facilities that underpin COL’s work in the regions and countries are listed in the next section.

The production of *COL in the Commonwealth 2009-2011* has been an intense collective effort. COL’s advanced knowledge management systems have enabled us to exploit fully the information contained in the numerous event reports prepared by staff as they work and travel. I express particular gratitude to Jasmine Lee, for diligently updating the country profiles that provided the raw material for these reviews, and to Karen Speirs, who brought this volume together in an impressively efficient and expeditious manner.

Sir John Daniel  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Commonwealth of Learning
PAN-COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVES

BACKGROUND

As a Commonwealth inter-governmental organisation, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) operates in all 54 member states, with a particular emphasis on 47 developing countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

COL’s Three-Year Plan was developed after consulting widely in the Commonwealth. It focuses specifically on the expressed needs of Member States and the imperative of progressing the Millennium Development Goals and Education for All, within the context of its own mission and mandate.

COL’s vision of “Access to Learning is the Key to Development” encapsulates both strategy and outcome. For example, COL harnesses the potential of open and distance learning (ODL) to bring lifelong learning for farmers (L3F) in an effort to mitigate the challenge of poverty and food security (MDG 1). As more countries achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE), they seek to provide access to secondary education. Since existing institutions are unable to cater to this massive surge, COL initiated the Open Educational Resources for Open Schools project as a response (MDG 2). COL uses community media to promote mother and child health goals (MDGs 4 and 5) in countries such as India, Kenya and Malawi.

COL also focuses on four Education for All goals – access to primary education, gender equality, quality education, and learning and life skills for young people and adults – through teacher training, gender mainstreaming, quality assurance and skills development respectively.

The approach has been to work within the framework of the COL Logic Model 2009-12 but to also be flexible and responsive enough to cater to new and specific needs as they occur.

COL develops Country Action Plans for Member States based on discussions with country Focal Points and partners. These dynamic documents are updated regularly and incorporate requests from countries over the course of the triennium. They will be presented as Country Reports, which document COL’s work in each country, to the Commonwealth Education Ministers, when they meet in Mauritius in 2012.

A number of COL activities span the Commonwealth. This section outlines these pan-Commonwealth initiatives.

EDUCATION

“OER FOR OPEN SCHOOLS”

COL’s “OER for Open Schools” initiative involved working with partners at open schools in six countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Seychelles, Trinidad & Tobago and Zambia) to create open educational resources (OER) for 20 secondary level courses. The OER will be freely available for download, adaptation...
and use, resulting in a substantial contribution to open schooling globally. COL provided extensive training to “Master Teachers” in each country, helping them build their skills in developing OER in both print and eLearning versions. “OER for Open Schools” was funded in part by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

COMMONWEALTH OPEN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

COL supports the expansion of ODL to meet the growing need for primary and secondary education, as well as lifelong learning. As part of COL’s initiative to establish and strengthen open schools, COL assisted in the establishment of the Commonwealth Open School Association (COMOSA), which involves partners from every region of the Commonwealth who have signed the COMOSA constitution.

The COMOSA website was launched at the first Annual General Meeting in Delhi in November 2010, and COMOSA’s activities for the next three years were identified as Research, Gender and Vocational and Technical Education. A COMOSA workshop on “Research in Open Schooling” was held in Delhi, India in November 2010, and a Research Agenda with ten areas was adopted.

OPEN SCHOOLING

Representatives from more than 20 countries took part in a COL workshop on copyright and open educational resources (OER) in Delhi in November 2009.

The Quality Assurance Toolkit for Open Schools was launched during the Sixth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF6) in Kochi, India in November 2010. The Toolkit will be used in all the countries affiliated with COMOSA to develop their institutional Quality Assurance frameworks. Copies of the Toolkits were made available to the delegates at PCF6.

CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

The UNICEF-COL Child-Friendly Schools initiative is mainstreaming “child first” concepts, principles and models into the pre-service and in-service teacher education curricula in eight Commonwealth countries. COL is working with partner teacher training institutions to develop Child-Friendly Schools learning materials and to provide capacity building workshops.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN MULTIGRADE TEACHING

A Consultative Meeting, the first phase of the Capacity Building Programme on Multigrade Teaching for Teachers in Selected Commonwealth Countries (Belize, Maldives, Namibia, Samoa and Solomon Islands), was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in June 2010. The capacity building initiative aims to strengthen the current work of the Commonwealth Secretariat and COL on multigrade teaching through the design and implementation of a programme to support teachers, using ODL strategies.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

COL provides leadership in quality in ODL. COL’s quality microsite (www.col.org/quality) provides a single convenient online access point to quality assurance resources in ODL. This includes access to COL’s Quality Assurance Toolkits for open schools, higher education and teacher education.

The COL Review and Improvement Model (COL RIM) provides higher education institutions with a “do-it-yourself” approach to institutional quality audits. COL developed COL RIM as a cost-effective approach that focuses on self-assessment and helps institutions improve internal quality assurance, planning and systematic institutional improvement. The COL RIM package, consisting of a conceptual framework and handbook, is freely available from COL.
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MBA/MPA

COL’s Commonwealth Executive Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration programme is designed for part-time study by busy working professionals, in response to the growing demands for post-graduate level education in business and public administration. The CEMBA/MPA programme is offered at partner institutions in Bangladesh, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING PROGRAMME

COL’s Graduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting builds professional skills through ODL. The programme is currently offered by three partner institutions: the National Open University of Nigeria, the University of the South Pacific and Athabasca University in Canada.

VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY FOR SMALL STATES OF THE COMMONWEALTH (VUSSC)

VUSSC is a network of 32 small states of the Commonwealth dedicated to expanding access to tertiary education. VUSSC hosted international training and materials development workshops that develop capacity and initiate the development of new courses that are available as OER. Educators and learners can freely access, adapt and re-use VUSSC learning materials.

Originally led by COL, VUSSC is now governed by a Management Committee with representation from all regions of the Commonwealth.

VUSSC members collaborated to develop the Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF), a system of accreditation for VUSSC courses that facilitates the movement of courses and learners among states. Through the TQF, VUSSC aims to ensure all open educational resources (OER) created for VUSSSC can be adapted into recognised courses that students can take for credit through educational institutions in small states. The TQF was formally launched in Namibia in May 2010.

VUSSC’s learning portal, launched in 2011, includes an online Learning Management System for learners and educators to access and contribute to VUSSC courses, as well as free online materials and tips for learning online.

LIVELIHOODS AND HEALTH

LIFELONG LEARNING FOR FARMERS

COL’s Lifelong Learning for Farmers programme helps rural communities engage in appropriate technology-based open and distance education to improve their livelihoods. While governments face challenges in funding adequate agricultural extension, globalisation is creating increasing competition for poor rural farmers.

Lifelong Learning for Farmers addresses these issues by enabling vulnerable rural women and their families to embrace learning. The programme brings together four key partners: farmers, learning institutions, mobile phone and ICT companies and banks. As farmers gain relevant knowledge from learning institutions via mobile phones and ICT kiosks, banks provide loans to them with greater assurance.

Introduced in southern India in 2004, Lifelong Learning for Farmers has been adapted and introduced in Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Uganda.
FLEXIBLE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

COL is helping technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions in Africa expand flexible and blended delivery approaches. By increasing access to quality skills development for young people and adults, COL’s Flexible Skills Development (FSD) programme aims to alleviate poverty. This programme actively targets course development for people working in the informal economy. Through online training, workshops and an online Community Learning Network, COL is helping 11 key TVET institutions in six countries in strengthening capacity to develop new curriculum content to realise the benefits of educational media and technology.

COL is also working with TVET training institutions in the Pacific to develop training courses in basic trades to help meet the skills needs of small island states. COL has worked with partners in the region to develop courses in Small Business, Small Engine Maintenance, Tourism as a Business, Working with Timber and Working with Concrete, as well as Literacy for Basic Trades, which assists students with varying levels of literacy.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

COL’s Healthy Communities initiative brings together groups working at the local level – media, health agencies, NGOs and community groups – to address health and development challenges through participatory learning programmes. While programmes vary according to local needs, COL’s approach remains consistent:

- Bring together local partners: most often community groups identify health information needs, health agencies provide content and community radio stations broadcast the learning programmes.
- Build capacity: this usually involves radio production skills, which expands the pool of community members who are actively engaged in the programme.
- Provide ongoing support: as programmes mature and partners change, COL will help community learning programmes adjust and continue to grow.

Recent initiatives span the Commonwealth, responding to local health needs.

“TAKING OER BEYOND THE OER COMMUNITY”

“Taking OER beyond the OER Community: Policy and Capacity” is a COL/UNESCO joint initiative that promoted the wider use of OER by expanding understanding of OER by educational decision makers and quality assurance experts. The programme involved capacity building workshops in all regions of the Commonwealth, online discussion forums and new OER publications.

COMMONWEALTH COMPUTER NAVIGATORS CERTIFICATE

The Commonwealth Computer Navigators Certificate (CCNC) is an information and communication technology (ICT) literacy course based on the International Computer Driver’s Licence (ICDL) using Open Office on either a Linux or Windows Platform. The high quality training materials are available from COL free of cost.

GENDER

Gender equality is a cross-cutting theme that underpins in all COL’s initiatives. The advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment are central to COL’s agenda of learning for development.
COL looks beyond the arithmetical target of gender parity (equal numbers of males and females in school) to the more challenging goal of gender equality (equality of outcomes). COL’s gender work includes providing gender resources, capacity building in ICT for women and gender research.

**E-LEARNING FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

COL customises eLearning solutions to meet the capacity enhancement needs of international organisations around the world. COL develops and delivers effective training solutions in partnership with the UN and other international agencies. This contract work is performed on a fee-for-service basis with full cost recovery. Course subject matter ranges from effective communication and report writing to operational data management and debt management.

**PAN-COMMONWEALTH FORUM ON OPEN LEARNING**

COL’s biennial Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF) is one of the world’s leading conferences on learning and global development. It brings together people representing educational institutions, governments and development agencies to explore issues related to ODL and development. More than 600 delegates from 70 countries attended PCF6 in Kerala, India in 2010. COL’s Excellence in Distance Education Awards, honouring individual and institutions contributions to ODL, are presented at PCF.

**PAN-COMMONWEALTH PARTNERSHIPS**

COL’s work is supported by networks of advisors across the Commonwealth:

- **Focal Points**: individuals nominated by the Minister of Education in each country to act as COL’s primary contact.

- **Honorary Advisors**: eminent ODL professionals from across the Commonwealth are a valuable resource for consultations about COL’s future plans and for Member States seeking advice on ODL.

- **UNESCO-COL Chairs**: distinguished serving academics who serve in an honorary capacity, complementing the political and administrative role of the Focal Points and Honorary Advisors.

**COL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES**

COL’s extensive resources, freely available through its website, include:

- **Connections** newsletter: providing news, commentary and insight about COL’s work and the broader field of ODL and development (www.col.org/connections)

- **Blog**: timely news and comment from COL (www.col.org/blog)

- **Publications**: research, books, toolkits and other publications commissioned by COL (www.col.org/publications)

- **Knowledge Finder**: an index of documents about ODL and international development from quality-assessed external sources (www.col.org/kf)

- **Country information**: This online database provides access to information related to ODL from all Commonwealth countries (www.col.org/CountryInfo)

- **Videos**: reports from events and insight into COL’s work (www.col.org/videos)
- Course materials, gender microsite, quality assurance microsite, speeches and other resources (www.col.org/resources)

- Governance and financial information: including Board minutes, financial statements and the President’s quarterly reports to the Board (www.col.org/GovInfo)
ASIA

Bangladesh | Brunei Darussalam | India | Malaysia
Maldives | Pakistan | Singapore | Sri Lanka
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND

The Asian Commonwealth is comprised of eight countries: three in Southeast Asia and five in South Asia. Three of them (Bangladesh, India and Pakistan) are among the most highly populated countries in the world.

Open and distance learning (ODL) has proliferated in Asia in recent years. Several of COL’s most important partners are located in the region, promoting south-south collaboration and harnessing the potential of information and communication technology (ICT) to expand learning for development.

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE FOR ASIA (CEMCA)

CEMCA is COL’s regional agency in Asia. Based in New Delhi, India, CEMCA plans and implements activities in Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Singapore and Sri Lanka. CEMCA develops regional expertise in open and distance learning (ODL) and information and communication technologies (ICT) in the Asian region and organises capacity building to respond to identified needs. It is COL’s only unit outside of its Vancouver, Canada headquarters.

Here are some recent regional activities facilitated by COL and CEMCA in Asia. Specific activities in each country are outlined in the individual Country Reports that follow.

OPEN SCHOOLING

COL held a workshop on Copyright and open educational resources (OER) in Delhi in November, 2009. Representatives from 10 open schools and education agencies in India attended the workshop, along with participants from more than 20 countries.

A Monitoring and Evaluation workshop was held for Commonwealth Open Schools Association (COMOSA) members in the Asian Region in Nainital in June 2010.

COL initiated and implemented a three-day awareness and training workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation in August 2010 at the Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL). Twenty-eight participants from 12 countries attended the workshop, the first of its kind to be held amongst open schools.

Higher Education

COL’s Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA programme, which provides professional development for working adults, is offered by several open universities in Asia including:

- Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan
- Bangladesh Open University
• Open University of Sri Lanka
• Wawasan Open University (Malaysia)

COL hosted a case method workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh in September/October 2009 for selected faculty members of the CEMBA/MPA to refresh and upgrade their knowledge and skills. Twenty-four people participated in the workshop.

The Academic Board and the Executive Governing Board of CEMBA/MPA both met in August 2010 in Penang, Malaysia.

CEMCA supported a session on Digital Library Quality at the 3rd International Conference on Digital Libraries in Delhi, India in February 2010. CEMCA and one of the Core Group members presented a lead paper on quality assurance in multimedia learning materials (QAMLM) guidelines. The session was attended by about 100 participants and copies of QAMLM guidelines were distributed to them. CEMCA sponsored delegates from India and Pakistan to the conference.

CEMCA conducted a multimedia content development workshop for 40 participants at the Bangladesh Open University from February 5-9, 2011. Participants were trained through all technical aspects of content creation from installing the necessary software to adding multi-media supports to content.

**Integrating eLearning**

In association with the Asian Media Information and Communication (AMIC) Centre Singapore, CEMCA supported the participation of experts from Commonwealth Asian countries in July 2010 at New Delhi.

CEMCA organised the post-conference workshop on Community Media and Convergent Media in association with AMIC Singapore and ABU Malaysia in New Delhi in February 2010. Representatives from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka were sponsored by CEMCA.

**Healthy Communities**

COL and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) conducted a workshop for community radio and education and development organisations on the sidelines of the AMARC Asia-Pacific Conference in Bangalore, India in February 2010. Participants shared, discussed and applied innovative approaches to developing educational content and programmes. They also learned new awareness of community radio in Asia Pacific and its potential contributions to local development, education, governance, knowledge and skills in using community media as part of disaster management, climate change mitigation, food security, and advocacy for gender equity.

The Bangalore Declaration was passed by the AMARC Asia Pacific general assembly. It is a collective statement of participants’ beliefs and commitments including the use of community radio as a tool for non-formal education and food security.

**REGIONAL PRESENCE**

COL maintains strong relationships with many stakeholders in the Asia, including member governments, partner institutions, donors and individuals. COL’s Honorary Advisors, a network of eminent ODL professionals, includes two representatives from Asia. The region is also represented by a COL Chair, Professor Chandra Gunawardene of the Open University of Sri Lanka, and a network of individuals, selected by member Governments, who liaise directly with COL as Focal Points. COL creates specific country action plans and country reports to ensure the region’s needs are addressed.
REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING

The COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Asia) took place in Penang, Malaysia in September 2011. The meeting is held once every three years. Focal Points share information about the status of ODL in their countries, receive the mid-term report of what COL has done in each country, and identify education and training priorities that COL can support in the next Three-Year Plan, 2012-2015.

REGIONAL BROCHURES

COL has regional brochures that summarise its activities in each of the four regions of the Commonwealth. These can be found on COL’s website at www.col.org/regional.
Maldives

COL Focal Points:  
Ms. Jameela Ali, Ministry of Education (Current)  
Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef, Centre for Open Learning (Current)  
Mr. Ahmed Yasir (2007-2010)  
Mr. Hamid Sodique (2006-2007)  
Ms. Khadeeja Adam (2006-2007)

BACKGROUND

Maldives is an island nation in the Indian Ocean with a population of 310,000 dispersed across a number of islands and atolls. This geography presents distinct development challenges, which are partially addressed through the expansion of open and distance learning (ODL). While literacy levels are high and the education system is well developed, the country seeks to make more effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) and to expand learning opportunities for people located in remote areas. Maldives is a regular contributor to COL’s budget.

SUMMARY

The Honourable Mrs. Zahiya Zareer, former Minister of Education, was the Regional Representative for Asia on COL’s Board of Governors and a member of the Executive Committee of the Board until 2010.

Maldives is involved in the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC). It hosted a VUSSC training workshop in 2010 and has a member on the Management Committee. COL works with partners in Maldives in several areas related to Livelihoods and Health, particularly skills development.

Several initiatives in Maldives are led by COL’s regional agency, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA). Maldives hosted the 9th CEMCA Advisory Council Meeting in Male in December 2009, at which the President and Vice President of COL and the Director of CEMCA participated.

EDUCATION

Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)

The main objectives of VUSSC are to:

- develop a collaborative network of Commonwealth small states,
- develop capacity in the use of information and communication technology (ICT),
- create and share learning materials at the post-secondary level, and
- establish a transnational qualifications framework that would enable the transfer of credits and qualifications.

Maldives is one of 32 small states of the Commonwealth who are actively participating in the VUSSC initiative.

The 7th VUSSC training and materials development workshop on Transport and Logistics focusing on Stevedoring was held in Apia, Samoa in November-December 2009. The workshop helped to build the capacity of participants in ICT and content development using ODL as well as developing content for the transport and logistics-stevedoring course. Mohamed Liraar of the Centre for Maritime Studies, Maldives College of Higher Education attended the workshop.

The VUSSC Team Leaders Meeting in preparation for the Male workshop was held in Singapore in collaboration with the National Institute of Education at the Nanyang University of Technology, Singapore. The team leaders included Ali Nishaman Nizar and Fathimath Mumthaz, Maldives.

The 8th VUSSC training and materials development workshop was held in Male, Maldives in March 2010, hosted by the Centre for Open Learning, Maldives. The participants attended the workshop to develop a diploma programme on Sustainable Agriculture for Small States for learners who want to start their own business and those who want to pursue a career in agriculture extension services. Ali Nishaman Nizar of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and Team Leader, Fathimath Mumthaz of the Centre for Open Learning and Team Leader, Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef of the Centre for Open Learning and COL Focal Point, Aminath Adam, Hawwa Neena Ali and Therisha Fathimath of the Centre for Open Learning attended the workshop. As a result of the Maldives workshop, a diploma programme on Sustainable Agriculture in Small States is being developed and currently being used in other Commonwealth countries.

The 9th VUSSC International Training in Materials Development Workshop for the development of a Bachelor Degree in Business Entrepreneurship was held in Lesotho in March 2011. Idham Mohamed of the Maldives attended the workshop.

Nazda Adam of the Centre for Open Learning has signed up for the VUSSC Managing and Facilitating online training course.

VUSSC has launched its own website (www.vussc.org), which includes online courses in subjects such as disaster management, entrepreneurship, life skills and tourism. Developed by educators from small states of the Commonwealth, the courses are freely available to anyone for adaptation and use.

A Management Committee is now directing VUSSC’s activities, supported by COL’s Education Specialist for VUSSC, John Lesperance. The committee includes representatives from small states in all regions of the Commonwealth. Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef of Maldives represents Asia/Pacific.

COL and the Open University Malaysia sponsored the Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) Management Committee Meeting and TQF General Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in July 2010. Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef and Abdul Waahid Ibrahim of Maldives attended the meeting.

The 2nd VUSSC Management Committee Meeting was held in November 2010 in Kochi, India. The Committee reviewed the progress to-date and drafted the plan for the next year. The VUSSC Interlocutors Meeting was held in November 2010 in Kochi, India. A Monitoring and Evaluation training was conducted during the two-day meeting. Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef attended both meetings.

**Teacher Education**

A Consultative Meeting was the first phase of the Capacity Building Programme on Multigrade Teaching for Teachers in Selected Commonwealth Countries (Belize, Maldives, Namibia, Samoa and Solomon Islands) and was held in the Solomon Islands in June 2010. The capacity building initiative aims at
strengthening the current work of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth of Learning on multigrade teaching through the design and implementation of a programme to support teachers using ODL strategies.

Adam Shareef Umar and Hussain Majid of the Centre for Continuing Education and Jaadhulla Hussain Thaufeeq of Maldives attended the meeting.

Higher Education

CEMCA conducted a multimedia content development workshop for 40 participants including Mohamed Adil of the Faculty of Computing and Business Management, Villa College at the Bangladesh Open University in February 2011. Participants were trained through all technical aspects of content creation from installing the necessary software to adding multimedia support to content.

LIVELIHOODS & HEALTH

Skills Development

The Government of Maldives, through CEMCA, requested the Open University Malaysia (OUM) to design, acquire, prepare the software and integrate a complete radio station capable of sending programmes through the Internet. The equipment was assembled and pre-tested at OUM before shipping to Male. Initial training was held in Male in October 2010, and advanced training for three trainees from the Maldives on the use of the equipment was held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2009. The cost of the training was shared by the Government of Maldives, CEMCA and OUM.

The Internet Radio (IRadio) was launched on 3 December 2009 in Maldives. The IRadio system was developed by the Ministry of Education, Maldives, CEMCA and OUM. The system is provided to all schools and provides access to quality learning material across the atolls of Maldives.

Integrating eLearning

CEMCA facilitated the participation of Zeena Abdul Gadoo from the Muhiyuddin School, Villingili to make a presentation on Digital Story Telling/IRadio at the eINDIA at Hyderabad in August 2010.

CEMCA, in collaboration with Wawasan Open University, conducted a four-day Training of Trainers workshop on Advanced EasyNow in Penang, Malaysia from 21-24 June 2010. Rizwan Shuhudha and Roza Ibrahim of the Centre for Continuing Education, Maldives attended the workshop.

The University of New England, NSW, Australia, donated 25 EduFrame laptop computers to Maldives. These were distributed to 23 Grade 3 children of the Muhiyuddin School, Villingili. CEMCA facilitated the conversion of the text books into Digital Text Format.

CEMCA organised a three-week capacity building programme in August-September 2010 for a five-member team from Maldives to work with open source software in order to create interactivity and to convert the Mathematics textbook into interactive formats. The team, led by the Hon. Minister of State for Education, Dr. A.A. Maniku, presented the study for the use of Eduframes by Grade 3 children at the Sixth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF6).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Sixth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF6), jointly organised by IGNOU, India and the Commonwealth of Learning, was held in Kochi, India from November 24-28, 2010. The theme of the
Forum was “Access and Success in Learning: Global Development Perspectives” with four sub-themes, namely: Social Justice, Community Development, Skills Development and Formal Education. COL organised 18 pre-conference meetings and workshops.

Over 600 delegates from more than 50 countries attended PCF6. COL/CEMCA sponsored over 250 delegates to the Forum including F. Hilmy of Muhyiddin School, Dr. Ahmed Ali Maniku of the Ministry of Education, Nadhuwa Sharafuddeen of the Education Development Centre and Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef of the Centre for Open Learning and COL Focal Point.

Jameela Ali and Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef, Maldives’ Focal Points for COL, attended the COL Regional Focal Points Meeting (Asia) in Penang, Malaysia in September 2011. The meeting is held once every three years and provides an opportunity for the Focal Points to share information about the status of ODL in their countries, receive the mid-term report of what COL has done in each country and identify education and training priorities that COL can support in the next Three-Year Plan, 2012-2015.

eLearning for International Organisations

COL customises eLearning solutions to meet the capacity enhancement needs of international organisations around the world.

- Three learners from the World Health Organization signed up for the July-November 2009 course on Writing Effectively.
- Two learners from the Central Bank/Ministry of Finance signed up for the July-September 2010 eLearning course on the Commonwealth Secretariat-Debt Record Management System.

LOOKING FORWARD

Maldives has identified key priority areas that COL can support in its next Three-Year Plan, 2012-2015:

- Conduct workshops on transforming education using ICT.
- Create a network where mobile technology is use to reach the outer atolls.
- Create mobile content, especially audio materials with interactivity.
- Teacher training and capacity building with special emphasis on multi-grade teaching.
- Strengthen and enhance the resources and materials for adult and community education.
Learning for Development

COL is an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies.

Vision:
Access to learning is the key to development

Mission:
To help governments and institutions expand the scope, scale and quality of learning by using new approaches and technologies, especially those subsumed under the general term of open and distance learning (ODL).