



THE GAMBIA

Focal Point: Mr. Musa Touray

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

1. Opportunities and Challenges of Learning for Development in The Gambia
2. Status of ODL in The Gambia
3. Mid-term Reflections of COL's assistance to The Gambia 2009-2012
4. The Gambia's top priorities (not more than five) for COL's assistance 2012-2015

Opportunities and Challenges of Learning for Development in the Gambia

- Use of relevant Curricula across all levels of the education system
- Student teachers have access to ODL modules of the Primary Teachers Certificate (PTC) programmes (both regular and extension programmes) developed by relevant tutors of The Gambia College.

Challenges of Learning for Development

- Acute shortage of trained teachers with a large supplement of untrained teachers at PTC, HTC and Bed levels after overall learning quality.
- Lack of well equipped laboratories and ultra modern library in some tertiary and higher education institutions

Status of ODL in The Gambia

Two parallel dual mode PTC programmes involving ODL and face to face sessions exist at The Gambia College:

- PTC regular – three year programme of one year college based, and two years placement with distance learning.
- PTC extension – three year distance learning programme with nine weeks of face to face sessions.

Mid-term Reflections of COL's assistance to The Gambia 2009-2012

- A workshop on the development of a Quality Assurance Policy Framework in Higher Education for The Gambia from 8th – 9th April 2009, and jointly sponsored by COL and MoHERST. Resource persons came from the MoHERST and the Regional Training and Research Institute for Open and Distance Learning (RETRIDOL) Nigeria, and the latter fielded in by COL.
- Mr. Philip Grey-Johnson of The Gambia Ports Authority attended the team leaders meeting in Vancouver, Canada, October 19th – 23rd 2009 in preparation for the Apia meeting.
- Mr. Philip Grey-Johnson and Lamin Touray of the Gambia Ports Authority attended the training and material development workshop on stevedoring held in Apia, Samoa from November 23rd – December 11th, 2009.
- A COL-MUN workshop on the development of a training manual for head teachers and school principals from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia was attended by representatives from The Gambia Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and one from The Gambia College.
- A Gambian participated in the development of an online training course in script writing with a focus on rural and small holder innovation.
- The Gambia participated in the fifth VUSSC Interlocutors meeting 22nd – 23rd November 2010, and the sixth Pan-Common Wealth Forum on Open Learning 24th – 28th November 2010 in Kochi, India.

THE GAMBIA'S TOP PRIORITIES (NOT MORE THAN FIVE) FOR COL'S ASSISTANCE 2012 - 2015

Education and Training Needs

1. Capacity Building and Validation Workshop – Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
 - (i) Financial and technical assistance towards the two day validation workshop on the Quality Assurance Policy Framework in Higher Education for The Gambia.
 - (ii) Training of relevant staff in policy development and strategic Plan in Research.

- (iii) Providing financial and technical assistance towards the validation exercise of the Research Policy and Strategic Plan.
2. Capacity Building – The University of The Gambia
- (i) Building the capacity of lecturers in the development of teaching and learning curriculum, modules, and instructional materials for Bed Distance Education Programme.
 - (ii) Training lecturers in the use of ICT for Bed Curriculum delivery.
3. Capacity Building – The Gambia College
- (i) Building the capacity of lecturers in the development of Distance Education Curriculum, modules and other support materials for the programmes as these are envisaged to be transformed into a full-fledged PTC OLD programme.
 - (ii) Capacity building on the development and use of online learning.

Livelihood

4. Youth Training in Fisheries – Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources
- (i) Training of Gambian youths in the basic skills of net construction and mending, outboard engine repairs and maintenance, business plan, fish preservation and processing. The training programme will increase the participation of Gambian Youths as Master Fishermen, increase fish production and marketing, contribute to the improvement of institutional standards of the population, and increase employment of youths.
5. Training of Personnel – Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
- (i) Training of trainers on the use of Traditional Birth Attendance (TBA) and Village Health Workers (VHW).
 - (ii) Support training of key personnel in Public Health Management and Implementation.