



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Key Challenges and Opportunities

1. Institutional incapacity (expertise, ICT enabled learning)
2. Shortage of trained teachers.
3. Content development.
4. Policy Implementation.
5. Resource Rich Project (LNG).
6. Government Policy on increasing access to education including fee free education up to Grade 10.
7. Quality assurance and control.

Status of ODE in PNG

Policies

- ODL Policy in Papua New Guinea has been developed incrementally for both higher and lower level education.
- Government Plans Policies emphasise the development of ODL for increasing access to education and human capacity building.
- Policy implementation has been slow in higher education but getting momentum at lower education.

Institutional Capacity

- Staff in ODL institutions is drawn from conventional education system and need training for up skilling in ODL. In country capacity for ODL training to be developed. COL conducted workshops on quality assurance and instructional design.
- Specialised consultant may be employed to conduct a study on training needs of ODL staff of various institution and make recommendation on the steps to be taken.
- World Bank (WB)/ National Department of Education (NDOE) / Flexible, Open and Distance Education (FODE) Project has, among others, inputs for training of FODE staff and ICT development. COL needs to field a specialist to identify the areas of cooperation to complement project activities for capacity building.

Teacher Training

- Government policy on Education for All and fee free primary and lower secondary education will require new teachers for increasing enrolment. Untrained teachers are to be trained to upgrade teaching qualification and content knowledge.
- Conventional teacher training is not adequate to meet teacher training need and the Government is looking for alternative to training teachers.
- COL Education Specialist needs to visit PNG to promote ODL teacher training with NDOE.

ICT Enhanced Learning

- Low level of infrastructure and shortage of skilled manpower are two important impeding factors for development of ICT enhanced learning in PNG.
- There are initiative for development of infrastructure but progress has been slow or frustrating (UPNG, UOT, DWU institutions). The WB / NDOE / FODE Project provides an ICT consultant for the development of data base.
- COL may consider providing specialist services to study interfacing different ICT needs with WB project input.

Content Development

- A Workshop was conducted by the COL Consultant to develop instructional design capacity. The workshop was a success as the participants were involved in providing training to course writers in their respective institutions.
- Workshops were also conducted locally with assistance from PNGADE to training course writers for content development.
- Lack of understanding and accessing to Open Education Resources and capacity to adapt in local context.
- WB / NDOE / FODE Project has input for specialist services to develop capacity in content development.
- COL to promote OER movement in PNG in collaboration with local counterpart.

Framework to ODL in HE

- COL consultant report on Framework for ODL in PNG was considered by the Government and the PNG Vision 2050 recommended for the establishment of the PNG Open University.
- The Commission for Higher Education approved a submission to the National Executive Council for the establishment of the PNG Open University.
- COL assistance will be required as and when NEC approves the establishment of PNG Open University.

Top Priorities for 2012 – 2015

1. Development of Institution Capacity through training and start attachment/study visit.
2. Development of a policy framework for teacher training through Open and distance learning.
3. Development of in country capacity for ICT enhanced learning.
4. Promote Open Education Resources movement and in country collaboration for content development.
5. Support for the establishment of the PNG Open University.