



SEYCHELLES

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SEYCHELLES COL REPORT ON USE OF ODL

ODL received formal recognition with the development and launching of The National/Open Learning Policy on 4th November 2003.

Challenges

- Lack of expertise to develop online resources for classroom use
- Limited skills of teachers in accessing, selecting and using online resources for classroom use
- Lack of expertise for development of tertiary materials

Education

Open Schooling Project (learning)

Seychelles is among the following countries involved in the Open Learning programme: Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zambia. Seychelles is developing two programmes – Life Skills and Coordinated Science for year 10.

Science Units

Twelve out of eighteen Science Units have been completed and signed off by Country Management Committee (CMC) and posted on Base Camp. Four other units have been developed and are yet to be signed by the CMC. The remaining two are still being developed.

Life skills units

All six life skills units are now completed. The next step will be to put them on the Moodle platform.

As there is no Open School in Seychelles, the units will be used as extension materials in the classroom to complement the conventional system. Furthermore considering the shortage of teachers in the schools, these materials will be of great help to learners and could be used independently in the absence of the teacher.

This challenging new exercise turned out to be rewarding but nonetheless time consuming. Due to the heavy workload, some of the Master Trainers had to abandon the project. Three out of the five Master Teachers on the Life skills project dropped out due to staff movement. Lack of human resources thus hindered progress on unit production. Slow access to Internet at the initial stage was considered as another major drawback. However with additional support provided by COL, most Master Teachers were given access to Internet.

Capacity building

Two Master Teachers benefited from a two week COL training in Namibia 2010. Seychelles also benefited from a third round visit from a Consultant from COL to provide more assistance on the project.

The next phase will be the development of the Implementation schedule by all countries once the different subjects have been evaluated and put online.

The chair of CMC attended the PCF-6 Conference in Kochi, India along with two other Seychelles representatives.

Higher Education

A MOU between COL and the University of Seychelles was signed on the occasion of the inaugural opening of the University in November 2010. Sir John Daniel CEO was present for the signing. Main areas of collaboration include:

- strengthening and sharing of knowledge resources and information services of organisations
- joint research studies and training in community development skills, development teacher training and higher education
- cooperating and taking joint actions to increase access to formal and non formal education and training opportunities for the people of Seychelles and, if required, in other regions of the Commonwealth.
- promoting and deploying courses from the VUSSC consortium.

VUSSC

Seychelles is actively involved with VUSSC. The boot camp on Fisheries was held in Seychelles in 2008. Seychelles VUSSC Interlocutor attended the VUSSC interlocutors'

meeting in Kochi, India in November 2010. Seychelles has attended all material development workshops (bootcamps), the latest on Business and Entrepreneurship art degree level in Lesotho in March 2011.

COL RIM (Review Improvement Method)

Seychelles is participating in the COL RIM. NIHSS (National Institute of Health and Social Science) and SIM (Seychelles Institute of Management) have been selected by SQA (Seychelles Qualification Authority) for the project. COL RIM involves several stages: from the signing of a MOU between COL and the participating institution, to the verification of results of the self evaluation and ultimately planning for improvement. At the end of the exercise a “COL Verified” status will be given to the institution.

NIHSS is in the process of negotiating the MOU with COL. The next step will be the self review of the institution.

The Transnational Qualifications Framework

SQA is participating in the development of the TQF. SQA has attended meetings in Singapore (2008), South Africa (2009) and Kuala Lumpur (2010). In 2011 all providers will be sensitised on registration of courses on the framework.

TOP PRIORITIES 2012-2015

1. Open learning for Outer islands
2. Capacity building for curriculum developers to create interactive materials for access on line
3. Access to peer reviewed papers, materials, books
4. ODL for training in Farming/agriculture
5. Quality assurance for Tertiary Education