



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Focal Point: Mrs. Susan Dougan

GUIDELINES FROM COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING (COL)

1. Key challenges and opportunities (not more than 3 each) for 'learning for development' in your country.
2. Status of distance education/elearning in your country.
3. Identify (not more than 5) top priorities that you would like COL to take up during the next Three Year Plan 2012-15.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Key Challenges for Learning and Development

EDUCATION

- The programmes and equipment at the SVG Community College, Division of Technical Education are outdated.
- The Law governing the setting up of the Local Qualification Board (Sector Skills Development Agency) was passed in November 2010. Thus far, the local Qualification Board has not been instituted.
- Shortage of technical assistance for basic computer maintenance, diagnosis and repair of ICT equipment.
- Integration of ICT into Curriculum delivery with the establishment of appropriate standards related to Learning outcomes.
- Little support from Caribbean Knowledge Learning Network.

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

- Unavailability of distance education for rural farmers to assist with the diversification in the agricultural sector.
- Agricultural institute has not been opened to date. Certification and accreditation mechanisms/structures are not in place.
- Technical assistance lacking for mechanisation of food technology, arrowroot industry and agri-marketing.

HEALTH

- Lack of technical support in media and communication.
- Unavailability of staff to conduct analysis of dietary intake of persons in hospitals and in the community.

Status of Distance Education/eLearning in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- Awaiting the completion of the EU computerisation of schools project and the development of e-learning at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College. The project also makes provision for training of educators in ICT integration, development of productivity tools and other online materials.
- A new programme has been introduced to effectively integrate information and communication technology into the teaching and learning process, through provision of hardware, software, equipment and training, and put in place mechanisms for the maintenance and repair of the physical assets.
- One Net Book per student Project implemented. 30,000 netbooks will be made available to students from grade 3 to 12 and in the post-secondary levels as part of governments thrust to integrate information and communication technology in curriculum delivery. The project has several components including:
 - Provision of hardware in the form of Netbooks.
 - Provision of equipment to aid connectivity in educational institutions.
 - Provision of the training for teachers throughout the system in ICT integration and basic computer literacy.

FIVE TOP PRIORITIES OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

1. Wellness Promotion/Development of Social Communication Techniques.
2. Acquisition of Diet Analysis Software.
3. Carry out Human Resource Audit of the health sector.
4. Development of programmes and training in Leadership for Health Sector Workers.
5. Education in Public Health.