Open and Distance Learning as a tool for Sustainable Development in the Australia-Pacific Region
Open and Distance Learning and the Developing World
AIMS

• Development
• Learning and development
• ODL, learning and development
AIMS

- Development
- Learning and development
- ODL, learning and development

(what kind of ODL?)
Breaking down Boundaries
A conference on the international experience in open, distance and flexible education
Development ~ Learning
Development ~ Learning
- learning to be
- learning to know
- learning to do
- learning to live together
Development ~ Learning

learning is a NECESSARY but not a SUFFICIENT condition for development
DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM

Amartya Sen
FREEDOM IS THE MEASURE AND THE MEANS
FREEDOM IS THE PRIMARY END AND THE PRINCIPAL MEANS
FREEDOM FROM:

Hunger

&

Poverty
Poverty and hunger

Target (2015):

Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

Fighting hunger and sustaining a liveable environment means empowering millions of farmers and smallholders and giving rural people more control over their lives.
Lifelong learning for farmers
Lifelong Learning for Farmers

4 Principles:

- Mobilise the farmers
- Consortia of information sources
- Use technology
- Involve banks and commerce
FREEDOM FOR:  

Education  

&  

Training
Primary education

Target (2015)

Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

The bottleneck to achieving primary education and gender parity is the training and retraining of millions of teachers. Success at primary level will create huge pressure at secondary level.
Teacher Training
PARITY OF:

Gender
Gender parity

Target (2005)

Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education
Gender parity

Target (2015)

Eliminate gender disparities at all levels of education
Women and ICTs
Gender Resources

www.colfinder.org/dev
FREEDOM FROM:

Disease
Health

- Reduce child mortality
  By 2015: reduce by $\frac{2}{3}$ the mortality rate for under fives

- Improve maternal health
  By 2015: Reduce by $\frac{3}{4}$ the ratio of women dying in childbirth

- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
  By 2015: Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
COL’s contribution to the MDGs

To improve the health of mothers and children and arrest the spread of disease, ordinary people want information that connects with their lives.
MEDIA EMPOWERMENT

Partnership with the WHO
COL works in partnership:

- Partnership with the WHO
- Partnership with NGOs
FREEDOM FROM:

Pollution
Environment

- Environmental sustainability

Integrate principles of SD into policy

By 2015:
Reduce by $\frac{1}{2}$ those without safe water
Improve lives of $> 100$ million in slums
COL focuses on Education for Sustainable Development
Global Partnership

* Good governance
* Small States, Youth & Technology
The Virtual University

for Small States of the Commonwealth
Learning & Living with Technology

The Commonwealth of Learning and The Millennium Development Goals
THE COMMONWEALTH
THE COMMONWEALTH

Democracy
THE COMMONWEALTH

Democracy

Governance
DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH THE
FREE AGENCY
OF PEOPLE
Amartya Sen
DEVELOPMENT

THAT IS

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT THAT IS SUSTAINABLE - ENVIRONMENTALLY
DEVELOPMENT

THAT IS

SUSTAINABLE

- ENVIRONMENTALLY

- CONTINUING
Culture of maintenance
DEVELOPMENT

THAT IS

SELF-REPLICATING
Learning for adaptability
THE BOTTOM OF THE PYRAMID

4 billion people
TECHNOLOGY addresses SCOPE and SCALE
Learning & Living
WITH
Technology

THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING AND
THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Technology-mediated learning
open and distance learning
integrate technology...
catalyst for collaboration
Open education resources

- learning management systems

- learning object repositories
CONNECTIVITY + OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
“...any learner anywhere in the Commonwealth shall be able to study any distance teaching programme available from any bona fide college or university in the Commonwealth”.
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
Open and Distance Learning and the Developing World
Learning is our Common Wealth