



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING





# Netaji Subhas Open University

21-23 November 2005

*Towards a Culture of Quality*

An International Conference on Quality in Distance Education

# Netaji Subhas Open University

- Rapid enrolment growth (3,000 to 65,000 in 4 years)
- Development of student services
- Increasing regional presence

# Netaji Subhas Open University

- Rapid enrolment growth (3,000 to 65,000 in 4 years)
- Development of student services
- Increasing regional presence
- Academic vision:
  - sustainable development
  - rural development
  - developing research
  - vocational education
  - use of diverse media

=..... an intellectually exciting place

Quality:

Fitness for purpose  
at minimum cost  
to society

Congratulations  
&  
Felicitations  
to  
NSOU



# Netaji Subhas Open University

21-23 November 2005

*Towards a Culture of Quality*

An International Conference on Quality in Distance Education



Professor Asha Kanwar:

*Towards a Culture of Quality*

An International Conference on Quality in Distance Education



# Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić:

- The Global Forum
- Guidelines for QA in Cross-Border HE

An International Conference on Quality in Distance Education

Netaji Subhas Open University

International Conference on Quality in Distance Education

**Towards a Culture of Quality**

(co-sponsored by UNESCO and COL)

*Cultures and Structures for Quality*

Sir John Daniel

Commonwealth of Learning

# 1992 UK Higher Education Reform

- Emphasis on quality assurance
- Decentralisation to home countries
- Polytechnics become universities

# 1992 UK Higher Education Reform

## **The Principle:**

“integrate the Open University into the same frameworks as the other universities for all purposes”

e.g. Quality Assurance  
Funding mechanisms

*‘the object of education is to  
give man the unity of truth’.*

Rabindranath Tagore

*‘the object of education is to give man the unity of truth’.*

*‘true modernism is freedom of mind, not slavery of taste. It is independence of thought and action’.*

Rabindranath Tagore

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high*

*Where knowledge is free*

*Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by  
narrow domestic walls...*

*Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the  
dreary desert of dead habit...*

*Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*

Rabindranath Tagore

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high*

*Where knowledge is free*

*Where the world has not been **broken up into fragments** by  
narrow domestic walls...*

*Where the **clear stream of reason** has not lost its way into the  
**dreary desert of dead habit...***

*Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*

Rabindranath Tagore

## 1992 UK Higher Education Reform

### **Pragmatism:**

The Open University was eager to have its quality assessed alongside that of the other universities.

# BRITAIN'S TOP NINE UNIVERSITIES

## Quality Rankings of Teaching

based on all subject assessments 1995-2003  
(*Sunday Times University Guide 2003*)

1	CAMBRIDGE	96%
2	LOUGHBOROUGH	95%
3=	LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS	88%
3=	YORK	88%
5	<b><u>THE OPEN UNIVERSITY</u></b>	<b>87%</b>
6	OXFORD	86%
7	IMPERIAL COLLEGE	82%
8	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	77%
9	ESSEX	77%

# BRITAIN'S TOP NINE UNIVERSITIES

## Quality Rankings of Teaching

based on all subject assessments 1995-2003  
(*Sunday Times University Guide 2003*)

1	CAMBRIDGE	96%
2	LOUGHBOROUGH	95%
3=	LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS	88%
3=	YORK	88%
5	<b><u>THE OPEN UNIVERSITY</u></b>	<b>87%***</b>
6	OXFORD	86%
7	IMPERIAL COLLEGE	82%
8	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	77%
9	ESSEX	77%

(\*\*\* and top in a 2005 survey of student satisfaction)

“a good distance-teaching institution has nothing to fear from comparisons with universities that operate in traditional ways”

# The QA system

- Quality audit
- Quality assessment

## 6 criteria for Teaching Quality Assessment

- Curriculum Design, Content and Organisation
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Student Progression and Achievement
- Student Support and Guidance
- Learning Resources
- Quality Management and Enhancement

Cultures  
and  
Structures  
for Quality

## Structure of Quality

“the essence of distance education is to divide the experience of the learner into its component parts”

Culture  
of  
Quality

“...are trained to carry it out effectively and motivated to carry it out well. We call this empowerment.”

What kind of  
Leadership?

Androgynous

Leadership?

THANK YOU

BEST WISHES  
TO NSOU!

