Commonwealth of Learning
The Centre for Educational Communications
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SEMINAR
20 September 2006

Technology Enabled Blended Higher Educations: Visioning of University of 21st Century
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Technology Enabled Blended Higher Educations: Visioning of University of 21st Century

• What vision for the university?

• What role for technology?

• Focus on the teaching function
Technology Enabled Blended Higher Educations: Visioning of University of 21st Century

Technology in Higher Education: How to avoid failure and achieve success
The fundamental fact about the university of the 21st century is that it will be largely defined by countries like yours
the profile of higher education will be defined by its growth in the developing world – India and China in particular
120 million by 2020
120 million by 2010
“Special Secretary in the Commerce Ministry G. K. Pillai said the country is likely to face a shortfall of qualified people in the coming years”

Zeenews  7 September 2006
Mauritius – a 3rd university
Age Participation Rates (APRs)

~50% in richer countries
<10% in poorer countries
Age Participation Rates (APRs)

Imagine taking India from 10% to 40% APR
The **Iron** Triangle

- **QUANTITY**
- **QUALITY**
- **EQUITY**
QUALITY

fitness for purpose

at minimum cost to society
The **Iron Triangle**

- **Quantity**
- **Quality**
- **Equity**
a simple form of instruction where someone stands in front of a group of people and talks to them
5 STEPS

- Plan lesson
- Prepare materials
- Lecture
- Assess
- Review
5 STEPS

• one great virtue

• one mixed virtue

• one great vice
5 STEPS

• one great virtue

FLEXIBLE

• one mixed virtue

• one great vice
5 STEPS

• one great virtue

FLEXIBLE

• one mixed virtue

INDIVIDUAL

• one great vice
5 STEPS

• one great virtue
  FLEXIBLE

• one mixed virtue
  INDIVIDUAL

• one great vice
  NOT SCALEABLE
The Iron Triangle

QUANTITY

QUALITY

EQUITY
“it has created in all our minds a link — an insidious link — between quality and exclusivity”
The Essence of Technology

• Division of labour

• Specialisation

=  

Economies of scale
The Iron Triangle

EQUITY

QUANTITY

QUALITY
Key Developments in Higher Education

• Private, for-profit provision
• Distance learning, eLearning, etc.
• Cross-Border Higher Education
Is the private sector or the public sector is better equipped to innovate successfully in applying technology to higher education?
Is the private sector or the public sector is better equipped to innovate successfully in applying technology to higher education?

…and Cross-Border…?
Institutional characteristics

Private, not for profit

Private, for profit

Public at home but private overseas

ARE THESE REALLY DIFFERENT?
Technology in Education

The X* generations

* how many is X?
There is no magic medium and never will be
Choosing technology

• Depends on context

• Many interchangeable
Each generation of technology/media generates increasing economies of scale.
INDEPENDENT
+
INTERACTIVE
Interaction = getting a response that is specific to me
● 200,000 students
● Costs 60-80% of conventional
BRITAIN’S TOP NINE UNIVERSITIES

Quality Rankings of Teaching

based on all subject assessments 1995-2004

(Sunday Times University Guide 2004)

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

…and top for student satisfaction
The Big-Small Paradox

- *Big* institutions gain economies of scale but may be poorly organised.

- *Small* institutions are good at interaction but lack the economies of scale to produce good materials.
Sharing Materials

For example:

The Commonwealth Executive MBA
The Commonwealth Executive MPA

developed by the 4 national open universities of South Asia
Sharing Materials

But:

• “not invented here…”

• hard to adapt non-digital formats
The latest miracle

Open educational resources

“sharing and adaptation are now easy because everything is held electronically”
Development of OERs

- MIT – Lecture notes
- CEC – Digital learning objects
- UKOU – Open content initiative
- COL - VUSSC
Development of OERs

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The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
The Commonwealth
The Small States
VUSSC Boot Camp Mauritius
Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

First learning materials:

Tourism

Entrepreneurship
Criss-Cross-Border Higher Education

The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

MATERIAL AVAILABLE AS:

Open Educational Resources
Creative Commons (BY & SA)

http://www.col.org/colweb/site/pid/4051
criss-cross border HE
criss-cross border HE
criss-cross border HE
criss-cross border HE
© Copyright

Creative Commons

Protections:
- Attribution (BY)
- Share alike (SA)
1. Prevents distribution of free content
2. Incompatible with other free content and mixing (e.g. with Wikipedia material)
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Technology Enabled Blended Higher Educations: Visioning of University of 21st Century

Technology in Higher Education: How to avoid failure and achieve success
SUMMARY

1. Focus on education not technology
   
   there is no magic medium
SUMMARY

1. Focus on education not technology
   *there is no magic medium*

2. Independence and interaction
   *work hard at the interaction!*
1. Focus on education not technology
   *there is no magic medium*

2. Independence and interaction
   *work hard at the interaction!*

3. Open content – focus on support
   *adopt and adapt content*
As the world’s largest democracy India will play a huge role in higher education in this century and will likely become the major cross-border provider...
I urge you to take that responsibility seriously by keeping the learner always in mind and supporting the open content movement as the CEC is already doing so well.