The Commonwealth of Learning

Learning for Development
COL IN THE COMMONWEALTH:

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
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learning for development

Three-year Plan 2006-09
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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Professor Asha Kanwar
The Commonwealth of Learning

COL IN THE COMMONWEALTH

2003-06

COUNTRY REPORTS

(49 countries)
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COUNTRY ACTION PROPOSALS

COUNTRY ACTION PLANS 2006-09

(at this conference)
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WHAT IS IT?

- Intergovernmental
- CHOGM 1987 - Vancouver
- Voluntary $$$ Commonwealth countries
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WHO IS IT?

• Commonwealth-wide Board
• 40 staff in Vancouver and New Delhi
• Networks across Commonwealth
• Country focal points
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PURPOSE

To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use various technologies to improve and expand education, training and learning in support of development.
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WHY DISTANCE LEARNING?

• Economies of scale
• Geographical reach
• Flexible and cost-effective
Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
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FUNDING?

Major donors (Board Members ex officio)
Canada
India
New Zealand
Nigeria
South Africa
United Kingdom
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**FUNDING?**

Contributions in 2003-06 from 27 other Commonwealth Governments

THANK YOU!
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Three-year Plan 2006-09
LOOKING BACK
The growth of Open Universities

2005 COMMONWEALTH OPEN UNIVERSITIES
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LOOKING FORWARD
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• a young world

• a diverse developing world

• spreading technology

• an unfinished agenda
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FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMONWEALTH
• Sustainable livelihoods
  = *key development challenge*

• HIV/AIDS
  = *development disaster*

• Education/training of women
  = *governments’ priority*

• Digital divide
  = *concern at CHOGM*
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EVALUATION
• Fewer programmes for longer
• Link to government priorities
• Programme focus: not projects
• Autonomy + teamwork
• Partnerships
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Three-year Plan 2006-09

learning for development
Education for All
(The Dakar Goals)
EDUCATION

LEARNING FOR LIVELIHOODS

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
Quality Assurance
Teacher Development
Open/Alternative Schooling
Higher Education
eLearning for Education
Sector Development

EDUCATION
Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
FUNDING

- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
  $US 350,000

- Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
  £1 million (4 years)
Key events in VUSSC progress

- Singapore:
  Planning meeting - September 2005
  Planning meeting - April 2006

- Canada (Vancouver):
  Organisation meeting - July 2006

- Mauritius:
  Course development ‘Boot Camp’ - Aug. 2006

- Jamaica:
  Planning meeting - November 2006
Singapore Statement (Courses)

- Teacher Education,
- Information and Communications Technology,
- Information Systems,
- Tourism and Hospitality,
- Nursing and Health Care,
- TechVoc Edn & Trg and Life Skills,
- Management & Public Administration,
- Agriculture and Fisheries.
Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006

- Orientation: concept of online collaboration and project planning

- Introduction to technologies, free open source software, Wikis, ePortfolios, etc.

- Production of course frameworks and creation of initial content

- Rapid learning of technology skills to enable participants to provide buddy-training
Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006
Mauritius Bootcamp: Aug 2006
COL’s role in the VUSSC

- Coordinate the initiative
- Facilitate creation of networks
- Share expertise in educational technology: radio, TV, print, multi-media, internet, wikis, eLearning
- Support local capacity enhancement
- Share resources
But COL is not...

- A degree-awarding body
- A funding body
The role of Ministries

- Develop policy
- Liaise with other ministries
- Allocate people and responsibilities
- Support implementation
- Monitor implementation
The role of Institutions

- Take responsibility for program development and delivery
- Adapt course materials to local contexts
- Grant awards earned by students
Learning and Skills for Livelihoods
Rural and Peri-Urban Community Development
National/International Community Development
Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
Transnational Programmes

LEARNING FOR LIVELIHOODS
Gender and Development
Health, Welfare and Community Development
Environmental Education
Good Governance
Educational use of Mass Media and ICTs

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

• Focal points in countries
• Country Reports (2003-06)
• Country Action Plans (2006-09)
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FOCAL POINTS

- Feedback to COL
- Align with national priorities
- Coordinate between Ministries
- Information exchange
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COUNTRY ACTION PROPOSALS

COUNTRY ACTION PLANS

2006-09

(at this conference)
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WHAT YOU GET FROM COL:

• COL works for you
• Expertise in learning + technology
• South-south collaboration
• Development without donors
• Successful and transferable models
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WHAT COL ASKS OF YOU:

• Dialogue about your priorities
• Finalise your Country Action Plan
• Get involved (e.g. in VUSSC)
BUDGET TRENDS

Revenue vs. Expenditures

Year

Millions

$12
$9
$6
$3
$-

1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005

Expenditures
Revenue

$Can 12 million
THE BOARD RECOMMENDS:

• Endorse the 3-year Plan
• Note progress on VUSSC
• Agree target of $Can 12 million
THANK YOU