

University Management Innovation:

Delivering Distributed Learning

www.col.org/speeches



The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

What is the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth?

A Guide for Commonwealth Vice-Chancellors



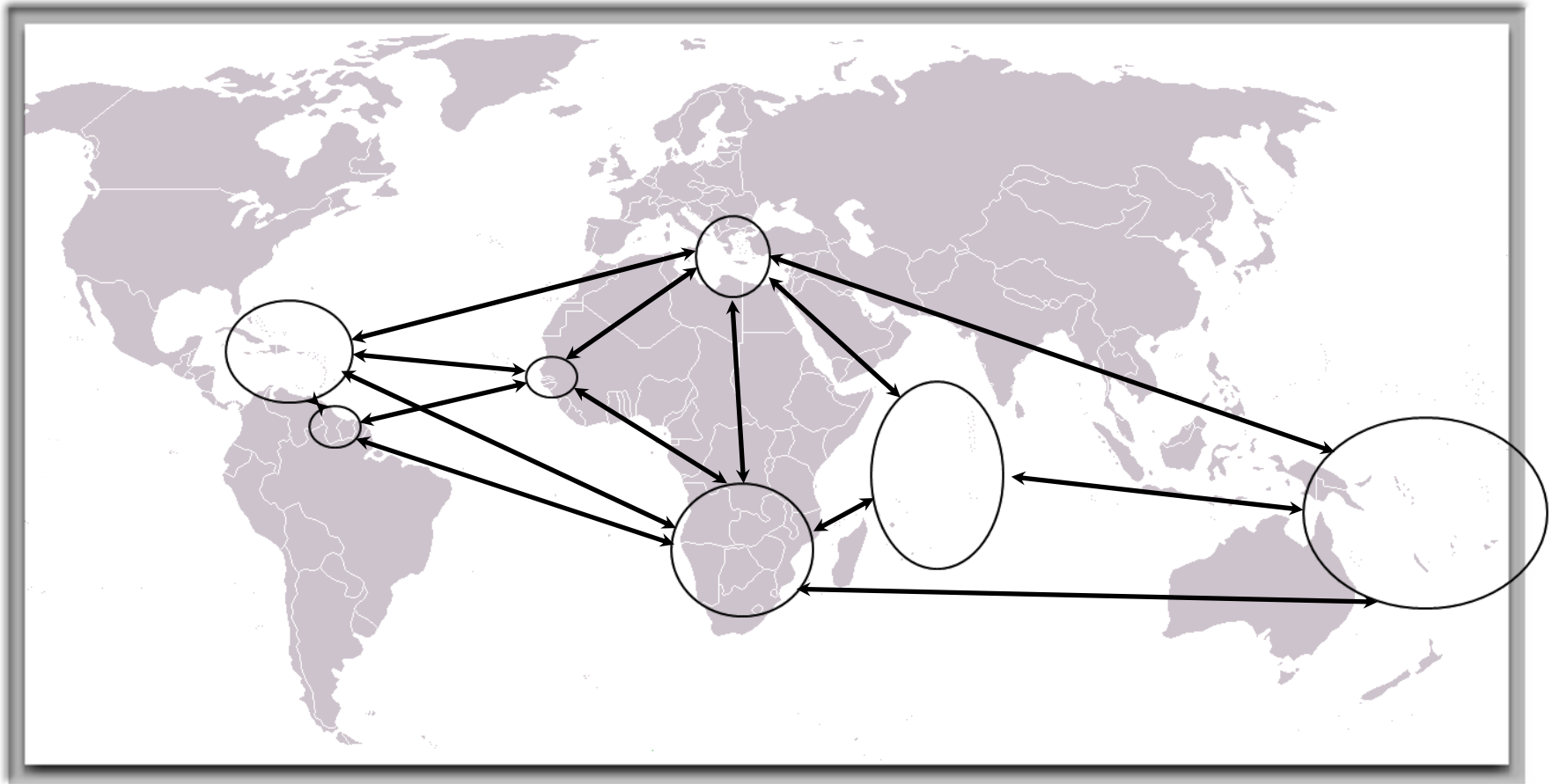
The Commonwealth of Learning





The Commonwealth





The Commonwealth Small States
spread across the globe

Features of Small States

- Fragile economies
- High transport costs
- Prone to natural disasters

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The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

Why?



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The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

14CCEM – Halifax, Canada 2000

- High profile development agenda:

Millennium Development Goals
Education for All

- The Dotcom frenzy



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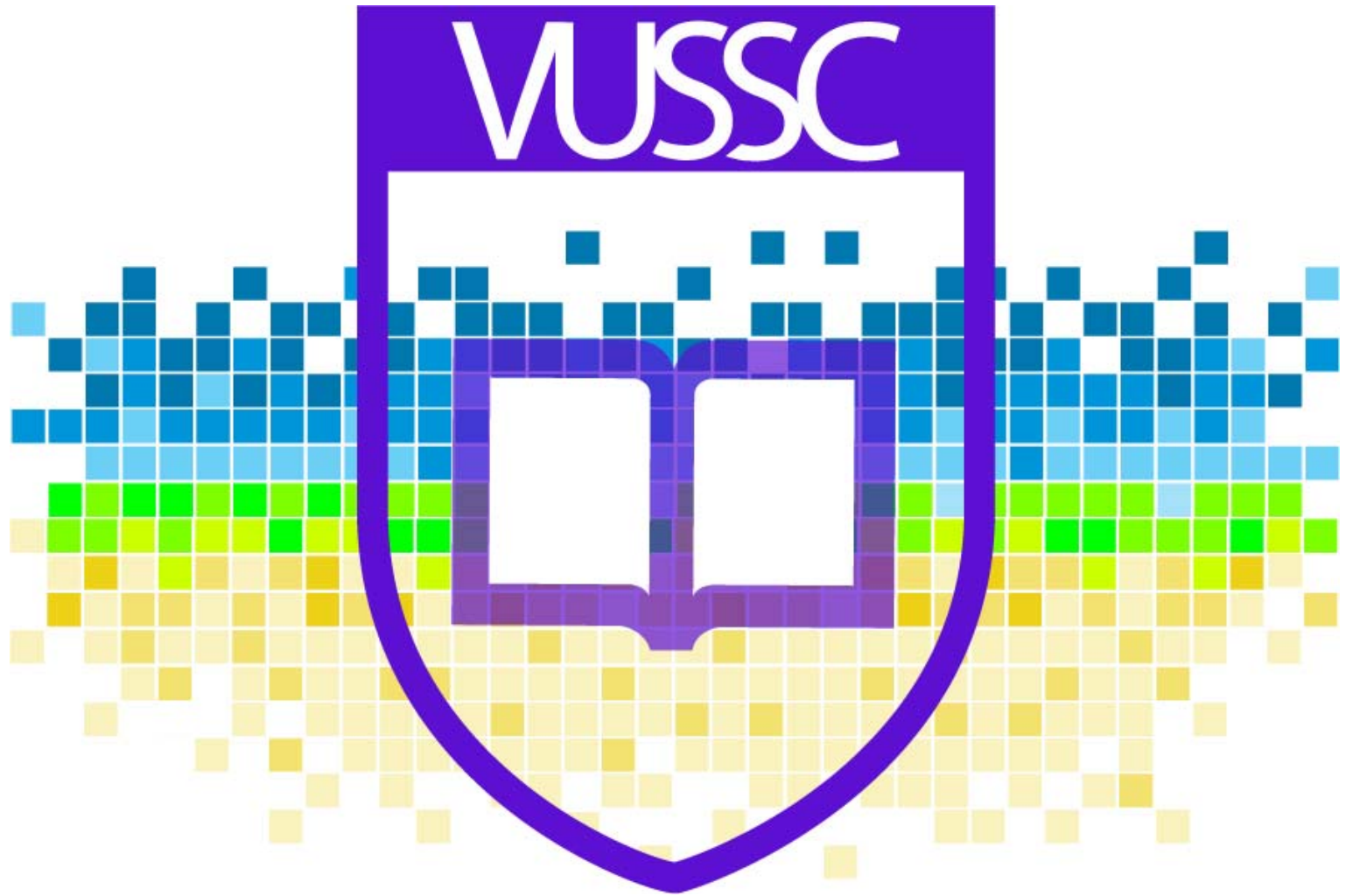
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

“The ministers... were determined that their countries should engage with the online world but doubted that they had the critical mass, of either expertise or equipment, to engage effectively with virtual learning as individual countries”



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**The Virtual University for
Small States of the Commonwealth**



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What?



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The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

- Expand tertiary education



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- Expand tertiary education
- Engage with online world



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When?



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- 14CCEM (Halifax)

THE VISION

- 15CCEM (Edinburgh)

THE PLAN



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PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



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A Transnational Qualifications Framework

(developed with the help of the South African Qualifications Authority)



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The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

VUSSC's first fully online course
(ON NOW!)

MANAGING AND FACILITATING
ONLINE INSTRUCTION

University of the West Indies
Open Campus

COL has sponsored students from
VUSSC countries.



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Where do the \$\$\$ come from?



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Plan: \$20 million (5 years)

Fact: \$ 2 million (5 years)

“SHOE STRING”

“BOTTOM UP”



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Thank you to...

- The Hewlett Foundation
- The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
- The Government of Singapore
- Participating governments



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The VUUSC is not a
COL project but an
initiative of the small
states themselves

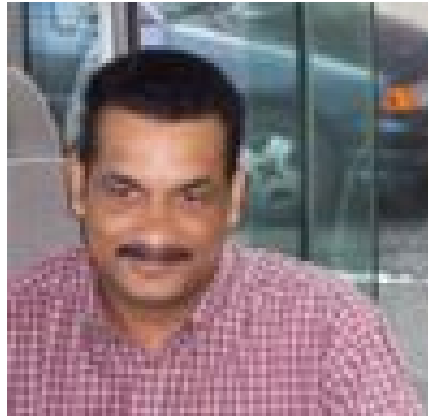


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John Lesperance (Seychelles)
Education Specialist: VUSSC
from January 2008



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The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

Course development workshops (“Boot camps”)

Tourism & Entrepreneurship

Professional Development of Educators

Life Skills

Disaster Management

Fisheries

Construction & Building



Mauritius VUSSC Boot Camp – August 2006



“negotiated collaborative contents”

Seychelles VUSSC Boot Camp – March 2008



“negotiated collaborative contents”



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All VUSSC course materials are
made available for worldwide
adaptation and use as

OPEN
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES



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For discussion on OERs see:

www.col.org/speeches



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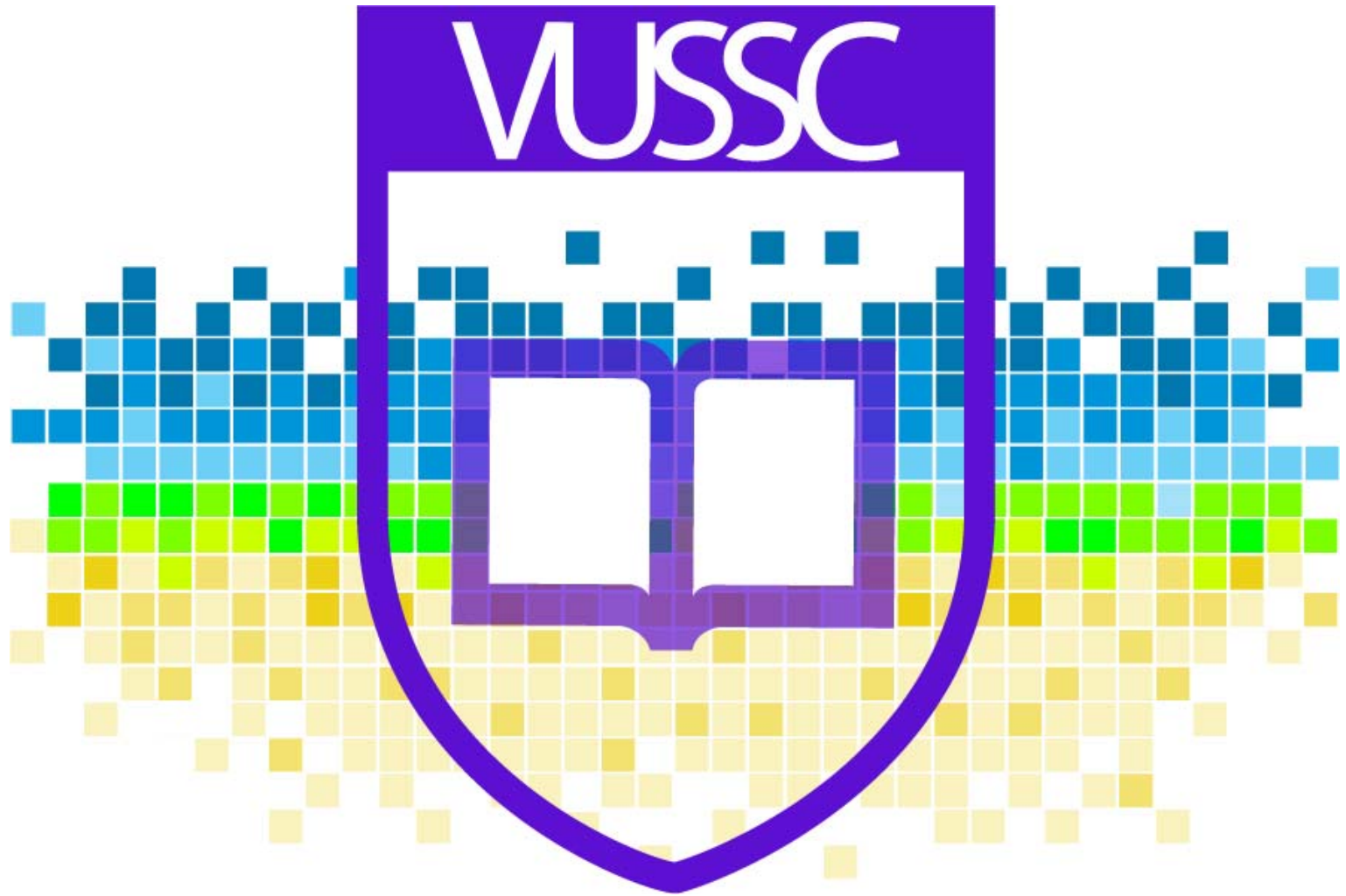
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Paul West

THANK YOU



John Daniel



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