University Management Innovation: Delivering Distributed Learning

www.col.org/speeches
What is the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth?

A Guide for Commonwealth Vice-Chancellors
The Commonwealth
The Small States
The Commonwealth Small States spread across the globe
Features of Small States

- Fragile economies
- High transport costs
- Prone to natural disasters
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

Why?

The Commonwealth of Learning
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

The Commonwealth of Learning
“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”
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

What?

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

- Expand tertiary education
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

- Expand tertiary education
- Engage with online world

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

When?

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

- 14CCEM (Halifax) THE VISION

- 15CCEM (Edinburgh) THE PLAN

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

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
Course development workshops
(“Boot camps”)
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

A Transnational Qualifications Framework

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

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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?
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

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

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

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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