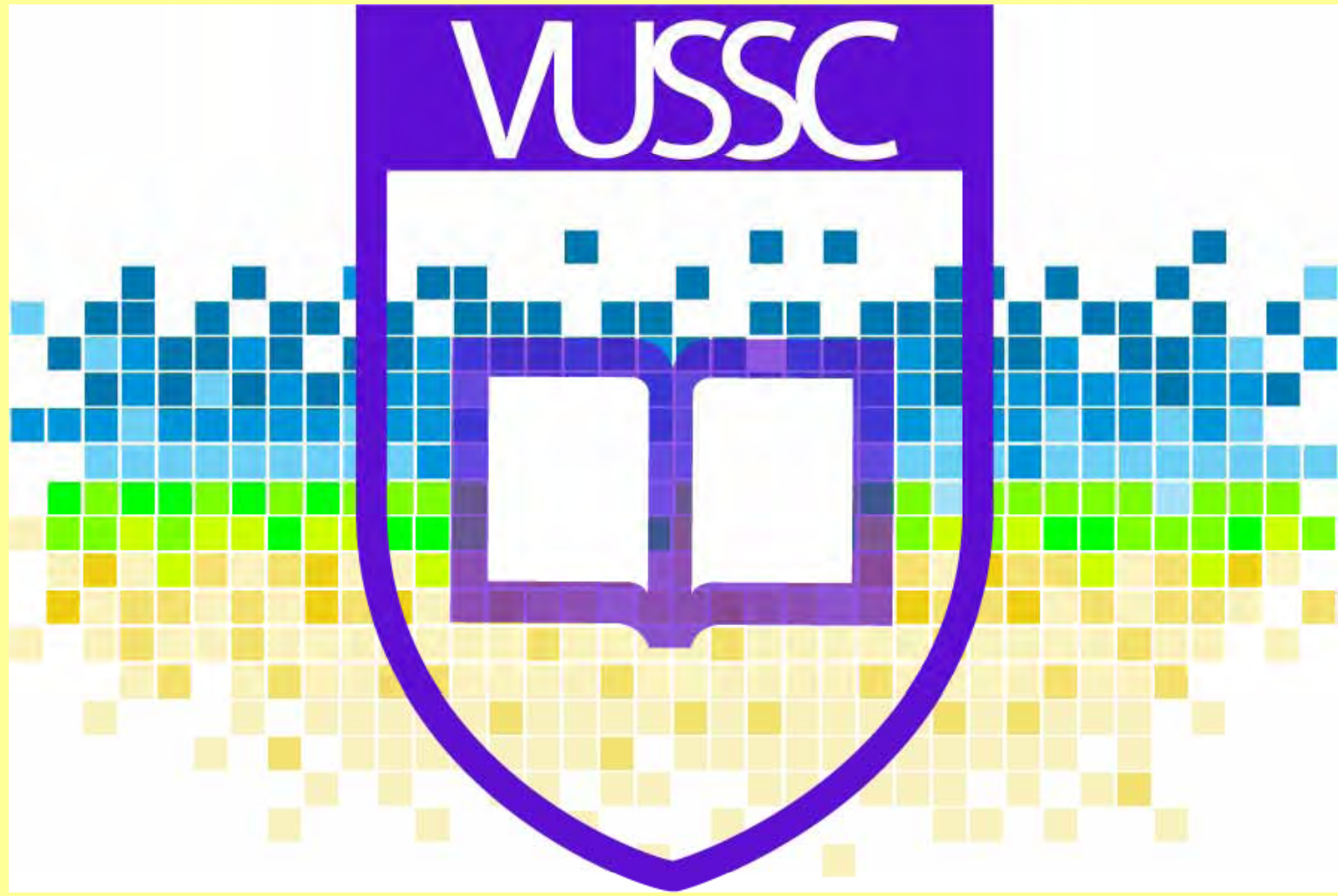


# The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth





John  
Lesperance



Paul  
West



John  
Daniel

# Origin of VUSSC

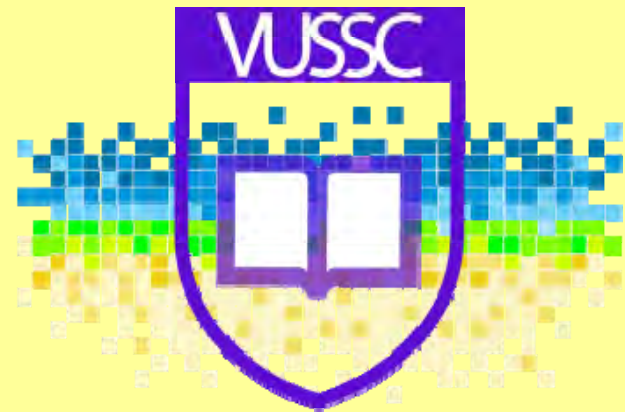


The triennial  
Conference of  
Commonwealth  
Education Ministers  
in 2000



# What led to VUSSC

- Year 2000 strong focus on development
- Impact of the new communication technology
- The Halifax meeting
- The Seychelles meeting



# The Changing Parameters

- The dotcom frenzy
- Donors mindset
- Open Education Resources (OERs)
- Multi media and ICT



# The Bottom up Approach



# List of priority areas

- *Hospitality and tourism management*
- *Small business development and entrepreneurship*
- *Professional development for the education & health sectors*
- *Life skills*
- *Construction management*
- *Fisheries management*
- *Disaster management*



# Capacity Building

- Intensive face-to-face workshops
- Success of the Mauritius workshop
- Team leaders, coordinator meet in Vancouver
- 5 days orientation workshop
- Workshops take place in computer lab
- IT and instructional design training including BaseCamp



# Mauritius Workshop



# Participant's view

- *Improving ICT capacity [is part of the] national agenda; producing learner materials that are relevant to our needs and culture, but also sensitive to global perspectives. ODL allows us to improve education in our outer islands where there is little provision and to offer adult education for working individuals to acquire further qualifications in a way that is convenient for them.*

*(Workshop participant, Seychelles Boot Camp, March 2008)*



# Funding

- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation



# Six Workshops Held

- 2006 - Mauritius: Tourism and Entrepreneurship
- 2007 - Singapore: Professional Development for Education
- 2007 - Trinidad: Life Skills
- 2007 - Samoa: Disaster Management
- 2008 - The Seychelles: Fisheries
- 2008 - The Bahamas: Construction



# Upcoming Workshops

- 2009 - Samoa: Port Management
- 2010 - Maldives: Agriculture and Agro Industry



# Participant's view

- *This kind of collaboration is a powerful medium to use to develop oneself and country. It is about sharing resources in knowledge and skills, so makes a change for the better, in the life of someone who needs it . . . I have come to see and learn in my lifetime . . . that access to information is a powerful tool. . . now, how to disseminate that information in a structured manner so that it is used in a positive way and empowers individuals for the better, is to me, part of what VUSSC is all about!*

*(Workshop participant, Samoa Bootcamp, November 2007)*



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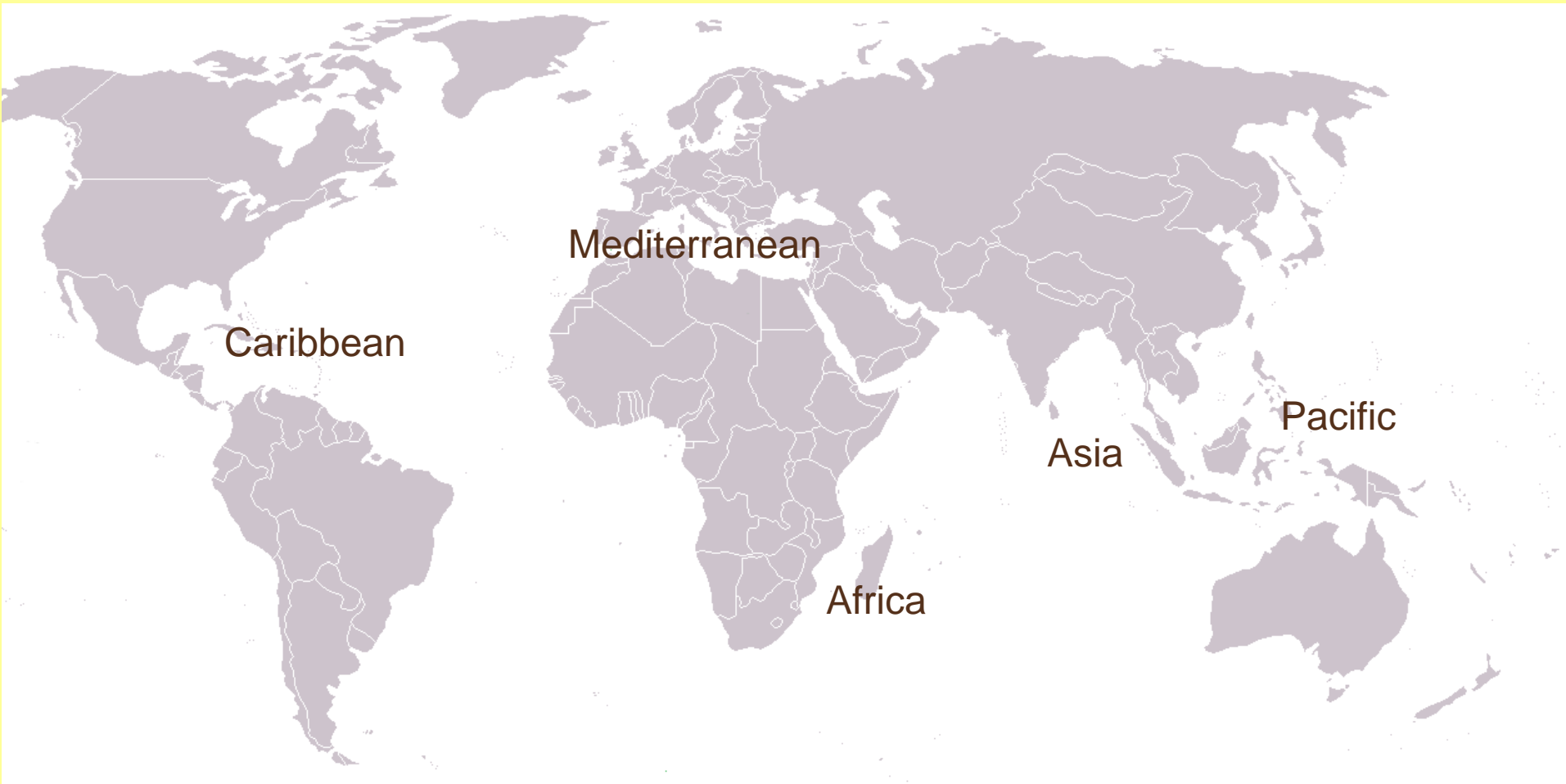
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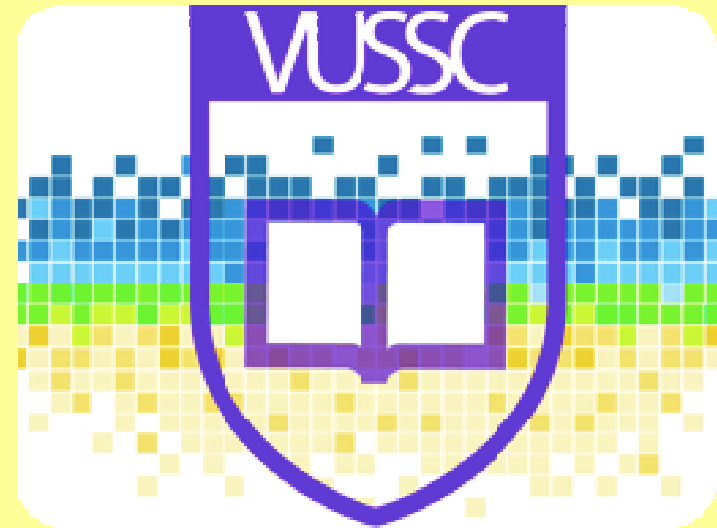
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# 32 Small States involved by 2009



# Transnational Qualifications Framework

- Assisted by the South African Qualifications Authority
- 10 level framework
- Translation instrument
- [www.vussc.info](http://www.vussc.info)
- Nationally accredited courses registered on VUSSC website



# VUSSC Achievements

- New model of collaboration
- Strengthening of national institutions
  - ICT skills development
  - ODL
  - ID template
  - Online collaboration through BaseCamp
- VUSSC co-branded courses
- VUSSC Management Committee
- 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Education Ministers





## The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth



**Dr Emma Kruse Vaai (Samoa)**  
**Chair, VUSSC Management Committee**



# Thank You

[www.vussc.info](http://www.vussc.info)

[www.col.org/speeches](http://www.col.org/speeches)

