ODL IN MALAYSIA

1. Profit/ non-profit; full-mode, flexi-mode, dual-mode ODL institutions
2. Very popular in Malaysia especially to working adults (approximately 50% of the country’s population)
   - Fees charged are 40 to 60% lower than conventional
   - Convenience for working adults
   - Completion rates are generally higher in Malaysian ODL universities compared to global standards.
3. All ODL academic programmes are subject to the same quality assurance rigours as conventional academic programmes as prescribed by the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA)
4. Teacher training via the ODL mode is big; over 40,000 teachers have graduated with a bachelor’s degree
5. ODL for lifelong learning has also been on the increase. However, ODL has yet to be at the forefront of learning for livelihoods.

TOP PRIORITIES

1. Opening up access to higher and continuing education
2. Enculturation of lifelong learning
3. Internationalisation of Malaysian education through online distance education
4. Use of e learning to enhance learning at all level
5. Learning for Livelihood especially for rural regions in Malaysia.

WHAT COL CAN DO TO FURTHER SUPPORT NATIONAL AGENDA?

1. Teacher Education
   - Malaysia requires new teachers as well as training thousands of existing teachers whose skills need upgrading.
2. Expansion of quality higher education and share programmes among institutions globally

- COL’s experience in the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth especially in the production of eCourses in skills-related areas within a new Transnational Qualifications Framework will be useful for Malaysia.

3. Linking Malaysia education online (MEDO) to COL’s network

- MEDO being the gateway for Malaysia’s ETP programme will provide online quality higher education, besides enhancing the visibility of public universities in COL’s network
- COL’s Transnational Qualification Framework maybe useful.

4. Malaysia’s e-learning Framework (recently launched)

- All institutions of higher learning will have to integrate e-learning into all teaching and learning by 2016
  - Malaysia to use Open Education Resource (OER) at all levels
  - Malaysia as collaborating partner with Open Education Resources University.

5. Malaysia’s Life Long Enculturation Initiative (recently launched)

- Welcome the sharing of tools, experience and expertise in the region.

6. Lifelong learning

- COL’s programmes such as Lifelong learning for farmers will increase capacity and development in the rural and remote areas of Malaysia.

7. Regional Centre COL initiative