



# COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

## Sir John Daniel

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Sir John Daniel became President of COL in 2004 after gaining wide international experience in universities and the United Nations system.

He obtained his full-time university education in Metallurgy at Oxford and Paris and later demonstrated his commitment to lifelong learning by taking 25 years to complete a part-time Master's degree in Educational Technology at Concordia University. However, the internship for that programme, which took him to the UK Open University in 1972, was a life-changing experience. He saw the future of higher education and wanted to be part of it.

This quest took him on an international odyssey with appointments at the Télé-université (Directeur des Études, 1973-77), Athabasca University (Vice-President for Learning Services, 1978-80), Concordia University (Vice-Rector, Academic, 1980-84), Laurentian University (President, 1984-90), the UK Open University (Vice-Chancellor, 1990-2001) and UNESCO

(Assistant Director-General for Education, 2001-04).

His non-executive appointments have included the presidencies of the International Council for Open and Distance Education, the Canadian Association for Distance Education and the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education. He also served as Vice-President of the International Baccalaureate Organisation.

Among Sir John's 300+ publications are his books *Mega-Universities and Knowledge Media: Technology Strategies for Higher Education* (Kogan Page, 1996) and *Mega-Schools, Technology and Teachers: Achieving Education for All* (Routledge, 2010)

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth for services to higher education in 1994 and holds 31 honorary doctorates from universities in 17 countries.

He is a citizen of Canada and the UK.

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Sir John Daniel, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth of Learning

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