

# ST. KITTS & NEVIS

## COL activities in 2003-2006

### BACKGROUND

Since COL's inception, it has organised annual meetings for the Caribbean Chief Education Officers. The meetings are used to share information within the region on open and distance learning (ODL) activities in order to promote and support sharing of expertise and experience. St. Kitts & Nevis has been an active participant in these meetings through sending the Chief Education Officer to attend and contribute to the proceedings. More recently, St. Kitts & Nevis is taking part in the initiative to establish a Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) and makes a financial contribution to COL.

### SUMMARY

In the 2003-2006 period, COL's partnership with St. Kitts & Nevis has allowed the country to participate in international debate by supporting the attendance of the Chief Education Officer at CEOs meetings.

St. Kitts & Nevis is participating in the Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth.

St. Kitts & Nevis is one of only two Caribbean countries that has had students complete the Technical Teacher Training Programme offered by University of Technology, Jamaica (UTECH) which was developed collaboratively in the region with assistance from COL.

### POLICY AND SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT

#### **Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)**

COL invited the small states of the Commonwealth, through their Ministers of Education, to indicate if they wished to participate in the creation of the VUSSC (for more details of VUSSC see section on Pan-Commonwealth initiatives). St. Kitts & Nevis has signed the agreement and sent representatives to planning meetings.

## **Media Empowerment to Achieve development and environmental goals**

Agribusiness, Fisheries Management, and Environment Sustainability – Working with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture, this activity has employed both radio and video productions that are used by the national television/radio broadcaster to educate farmers and fishermen in new techniques and general information. The focus is to aid farmers in moving towards crop diversification from a dependence on cultivation of sugar.

## **Preparation and use of learning materials**

St. Kitts & Nevis is currently piloting the Technical Teacher Training Programme, which was developed by COL through regional collaboration and is offered by UTECH in Jamaica. Two persons from St. Kitts & Nevis recently attended a COL sponsored workshop on the future of the programme.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Commonwealth of Learning organises and supports a meeting of Caribbean Chief Education Officers on an approximate annual basis. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and share information about regional ODL initiatives, and to provide an opportunity to the CEOs for professional development.

The Chief Education Officer from St. Kitts & Nevis has attended the last three CEO meetings – one in March 2003, a second held in conjunction with PCF3 in Dunedin, New Zealand in August 2004, and a third, in Trinidad in February 2005 which was held just prior to the launch of the Caribbean Association for Distance and Open Learning.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

St. Kitts & Nevis commitment to VUSSC was an important feature of its work with COL in 2003-2006. VUSSC will continue to be important in the 2006-2009 planning period for St. Kitts & Nevis. St. Kitts & Nevis has led the way for other Caribbean countries in piloting the Technical Teacher Training programme developed by COL. This programme will roll out more fully in the next planning period of 2006-2009 and there will be scope for St. Kitts & Nevis to play a part in this.