

ST. LUCIA

COL activities in 2003-2006

BACKGROUND

Since COL's inception, it has organised annual meetings for the Caribbean Chief Education Officers (CEOs). 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. Lucia has been an active participant in these meetings and a regular contributor to COL's budget.

SUMMARY

In the 2003-2006 planning period, COL's partnership with St. Lucia has allowed the attendance of the Chief Education Officer at the CEOs meetings. These meetings are excellent opportunities for networking and exchanging information and experience.

St. Lucia is an active participant in the Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC).

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 wish to participate in the creation of the VUSSC (for more details of VUSSC see section on Pan-Commonwealth initiatives). St. Lucia has signed the agreement and was represented at the first planning meeting held in Singapore in September 2005.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COL organises and supports a meeting of Caribbean Chief Education Officers (CEOs) 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. Lucia 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.

A three day meeting of the authors of the proposed book on “Foreign Tertiary Education Providers in the Anglophone Caribbean” was held in Trinidad & Tobago in October 2005. St. Lucia sent a representative to the meeting.

Through the Canada-Caribbean Distance Education Scholarship Programme, which COL facilitated, four students graduated in June 2004 from the programme on Tourism and Hospitality Management offered by Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia.

LOOKING FORWARD

St. Lucia’s commitment to VUSSC was an important development in the 2003-2006 period. St. Lucia will continue to be an active participant in this initiative as it grows in the 2006-2009 planning period.