

EAST AFRICAN CONSULTATION FOR COL's THREE-YEAR PLAN (2006 – 2009)
Nairobi, Kenya—14th Sept, 2004

On the second day of the National Forum on OL&DE, 37 participants attended an after-dinner meeting to offer advice on COL's next three year plan. While most participants were from Kenya, there was representation from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania at this 90-minute consultation.

Key recommendations were as follows:

1. Need for more focus on continuing education, TVET and lifelong learning
2. Emphasis on EFA and secondary education which becomes especially relevant in the Kenyan context with free primary education provision.
3. Need for capacity-building and training in all aspects of ODL
4. COL should mainly focus on the education sector rather than on health, environment, governance etc as there are other dedicated international agencies that focus solely on these sectors.
5. COL become a clearing house for good courses and learning materials (including audio, video, etc) which can then be shared with the developing Commonwealth countries.
6. Community radio stations were seen as an important means of DE delivery and support.
7. COL should continue to support national and regional DE Associations.
8. COL should work with COMSEC to ensure that the ACU scholarships have a few specifically earmarked for DE.
9. COL should convene regular coordination meetings to share information about the various initiatives it has in a country...
10. COL should continue to support professional development activities, e.g. the African Vice Chancellors' and Teacher College Principals' training programmes, giving adequate weightage to gender.
11. COL could support/co-ordinate the establishment of regional QA protocols and ensure that there is high level of support from Ministers of Education, VCs, Principals etc.