

TANZANIA

COL activities in 2003-2006

BACKGROUND

Tanzania has had a long association with COL, especially through the Open University of Tanzania. The intensity of Tanzania's involvement with COL increased in 2003-2006 as it made regular voluntary contributions to the budget. A Tanzanian, Dr. Penina Mlamba of the Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE), currently represents the Africa region on COL's Board of Governors.

SUMMARY

In the 2003-2006 period, COL's assistance to Tanzania concentrated on professional development by making it possible for senior people from the education system to attend a variety of training events in other countries. Tanzania has also been involved in the collaborative development of learning materials that are now being used in the Institute for Adult Education. Recently COL has equipped the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) with a Health Media Unit.

POLICY AND SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT

Preparation and use of learning materials

Tanzania was one of eight Southern African countries working with COL on STAMP 2000+ a five year programme of learning materials creation aimed at teachers and administrators in Science, Mathematics and Technology. Forty-six modules have been prepared and 300 educators trained in their use.

Tanzania is part of the programme on Increasing Access to Secondary School Level Education through Quality Learning Materials. Materials on English and Science are complete and in use by the Institute of Adult Education.

Through the Institute for Adult Education COL has supported the review and use of materials for promoting Civic Education and Human Rights.

Two representatives of the Open University of Tanzania took part in a meeting in Mauritius in 2003 to review possible use of the Commonwealth Executive MBA and MPA programmes.

Health awareness

COL partnered with the World Health Organization and the CSSC to address the issue of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania. COL set up a Health Media Unit with CSSC so that it was able to produce video materials on HIV/AIDS. These productions are distributed across the country through “village cinema” events, radio and television.

Institutional links

COL facilitated a meeting between the Vice-Chancellors of the Open University of Tanzania and the National Open University of Nigeria in 2006 to explore future collaboration

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COL facilitated staff development at the Institute for Adult Education by linking it to a Certificate Course in Distance Education developed by the International Extension College and now being run by Kyambogo University, Uganda.

COL organised Management Development Workshops for Senior African Teacher Educators in India (2) and Singapore in 2003, 2004 and 2005. There were seven participants from Tanzania representing the Ministry of Education and Culture; Ilonga Teachers College; Korogwe Teachers College; Marangu Teachers College; Monduli Teachers College; Ndala Teachers College; and Vikindu Teachers College.

A senior official from the Ministry of Education and Culture attended an International Roundtable on Innovations in Teacher Education: International Practices in Quality Assurance held in India in 2004.

There were four Tanzanian participants in the African Regional Conference on Teacher Training and the Use of ICT in the Classroom that was held in Kenya in 2003.

COL has assisted the development of open schooling through the participation of three Tanzanians in the two-week programme on establishing open schooling systems offered at the National Institute for Open Schooling in India in 2004 as well as two in the Forum on Open Schooling for Secondary Education held in Botswana in the same year.

COL and the ACU organised a professional development series: Managing Change: Leadership and Strategic Change in Higher Education – a Programme for Leaders of Commonwealth Universities in Africa, in Scotland in 2003 and 2004. Tanzania’s three participants represented the University of Dar es Salaam, the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, and the Mzumbe University.

COL has helped to train Tanzanians in eLearning through attendance at a workshop for Science and Mathematics teachers at the University of Melbourne and a workshop on policy and practice in Nairobi, Kenya in 2004.

Representatives of the Vocational Training and Education Authority (VETA) and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology participated in a training of trainers workshop in Mauritius in 2005 in the Use of ICTs and the Application of COL's TVET Diploma curriculum.

Two representatives from the Institute for Adult Education took part in a meeting in Uganda in 2006 to familiarise themselves with the IEC-developed programme, Introduction to Distance Education: a course for managers and practitioners.

In addition COL sponsored Tanzanian delegates to attend the biennial Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning held in New Zealand in 2004 and an advocacy meeting with briefing for Permanent Secretaries and Senior Education Officials organised by the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa in 2005.

EVALUATION

“COL has been playing a great role, hence becoming an enhancing tool for the achievement of Open and Distance Learning in Tanzania”.

(From “Provision of Education through Open and Distance Learning in Tanzania” presented by the Honourable Margareth Sitta, Minister for Education and Vocational Training, 12 May 2006)

LOOKING FORWARD

The period 2003-2006 was one of renewed co-operation between COL and Tanzania. The progress in this period, particularly in the area of professional development, is set to yield further positive results in 2006-2009 as Tanzania develops open schooling to expand opportunities at secondary level.