COUNTRY PRESENTATION: DOMINICA

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Proposed Activities in Dominica - 2009-2012

Education

Quality Assurance

- Pan-Commonwealth Quality Indicators could be used by Ministries of Education and teacher education institutions for quality assurance in teacher education.

- Develop capacity to facilitate establishment of the Accreditation Board to access information.

- COL to organise regional institutes for policy makers/administrators in education/teacher in quality assurance in teacher education.

Teacher Development

- Set up centres in various communities to expand teacher education e.g. North East, Grandbaby, East and North. Programmes will originate from the State College and could be accessed in classrooms at all secondary schools.

Elearning for Education Sector Development

- COL provides a rich set of resources via its website (www.col.org/resources) and knowledge finder service, a virtual library of about one million documents from selected sources (www.col.org/kf) and database of learning objects (www.col.org/lor). COL's WikiEducator (www.col.org/wikieducator) provides an online service to support online educational communities.

- The Caribbean Chief Education Officers are brought together approximately every year for a briefing on COL's activities in the region as well as to give them an opportunity to discuss new ODL/Education Technologies activities in their countries – both planned and initiated. In conjunction with the meeting, COL organises a professional development activity or the meeting is held in conjunction with a larger ODL/ICT event or activity.

- Learning4Content aims to build capacity among educators in using Wikieducator to develop free content for education. Training is free and educators will "pay" for their training by donating time to develop one free content lesson of their choice. COL is planning to hold at least one workshop in each Commonwealth member states.

Learning and Livelihoods

Learning and Skills for Livelihoods

- Foster linkages with institutions offering technical educational programmes. It is suggested that this project be developed by the Adult Education Department as it has ongoing educational programmes set up in several adult education centres. The Ministry of Education will provide assistance in facilitating some programmes.

Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

- The Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) has conducted meetings of policy-makers to agree strategy and the hosting of capacity "building-by-doing boot camps" of educational professionals, to create open educational resources (OER) which are published on the Internet. The boot camps create virtual communities or "new Diaspora" of professional educators who work and collaborate online.

  Dominica will be participating in the activities of the VUSSC during the next three years (www.col.org/vussc). Activities already started include the creation, customisation and reuse of OERs. Quality assurance and cross-accreditation of learning programmes will be a focus area in this planning period.

Human Environment

Gender and Development

- The Department of Gender Affairs has indicated interest in this project and is willing to accept the project. This will strengthen the women in society equipping them with the necessary skills to be self-sufficient.

Educational Use Mass Media ICTs

- COL has supported the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment in producing media to address the needs of targeted groups in the Country.

- COL will develop the multi-media capacity in the Ministry of Education that will develop materials for students and teachers.