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Award for Excellence for Institutional Achievement

The Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement is to honour significant institutional achievements in the innovative and effective application of learning technologies and open and distance learning methodologies to reach students who might otherwise not have participated in the learning or training experience.

The University of Papua New Guinea's Open College has the crippling challenge of wrestling head-on with PNG's formidable topography, known in planning and policy circles as the "tyranny of terrain."

Largely a mountainous country with coastal lowlands and rolling foothills, covering a total land area of over 462,000 square kilometers, and occupied by close to six million people speaking several hundred indigenous languages, the challenge of education provision is enormous. It is within this context that the Open College has been able to develop award-winning course materials for a programme that successfully targets, among others: school dropouts, unemployed youths, disadvantaged women, NGOs and community workers and leaders, school teachers and even prisoners.