

DOMINICA

COL activities in 2003-2006

BACKGROUND

Since COL's inception, it has organised annual meetings for the Caribbean Chief Education Officers. 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. Dominica has been an active participant in these meetings through sending the CEO to attend and contribute to the proceedings although it has not contributed to COL's budget in the 2003-2006 period.

SUMMARY

In the 2003-2006 planning period, COL's partnership with Dominica has allowed the country to participate actively in international debate on ODL by supporting the attendance of the Chief Education Officer at Caribbean CEOs meetings. The CEO from Dominica now also chairs the group.

Dominica 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 wished to participate in the creation of the VUSSC (for more details of VUSSC see section on Pan-Commonwealth initiatives). Dominica has signed the agreement.

Media Empowerment to achieve development and environmental goals: Agribusiness Opportunities, Fisheries and Forestry Management and Environment Sustainability.

This activity, on-going since 2000 with the Ministry of Agriculture's Extension Services, has installed digital video technology and trained extension officers to create productions that are aired by the national television broadcaster to educate farmers in new techniques and crop diversification.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Commonwealth of Learning organises and supports a meeting of Caribbean Chief Education Officers (CEOs) on an approximate annual basis. The purpose for 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 Dominica has attended two of the last three CEO meetings – one in March 2003, and one in Trinidad in February 2005 which was held just prior to the launch of the Caribbean Association for Distance and Open Learning.

LOOKING FORWARD

Dominica's commitment to VUSSC was an important feature of its work with COL in 2003-2006 and will continue to be a significant focus in the next planning period of 2006-2009.