

# NAURU

## COL activities in 2003-2006

### BACKGROUND

A very small state of the Commonwealth, Nauru is the world's smallest independent republic with a population of 10,000 and covering just 21 sq. km.

Literacy on the island is 97%, with education compulsory from six to 15 years of age. The University of the South Pacific has a campus on the island.

### SUMMARY

Nauru has made good use of networking opportunities to make progress in this period. It is interested in participating in the Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC).

### POLICY AND SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT

#### **The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)**

Nauru has expressed interest in VUSSC (see section on Pan-Commonwealth initiatives for more details on VUSSC) but has not yet participated in its work.

#### **ICT as a tool for development in island countries**

COL partnered the Asian Development Bank to work up a plan to assess the existing framework and potential for information and communication technology (ICT) in twelve island countries including Nauru in terms of their ICT readiness, including physical infrastructure, financial and human resources, and regulatory framework for future development. The terms also identified bankable ICT-related projects, particularly in areas of distance education, e-commerce and e-government.

## **Preparation and use of learning materials**

Nauru is a member of the South Pacific Islands, with which COL is working in developing basic trade courses. One course on “Working with Timber” has been completed and the second one, on “Working with Concrete” is nearing completion. A third course “Small Engines” is in the planning stages.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Nauru was represented in a COL workshop to develop a model for delivering training in basic trade skills to local communities which was held in Suva 28 April – 2 May, 2003.

COL sponsored one delegate from Nauru to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning which was held in partnership with the Distance Education Association of New Zealand (DEANZ) in Dunedin, New Zealand in July 2004.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

Nauru’s active engagement in open, distance and technology enhanced learning has benefited from the networks and expertise it has been able to access via COL sponsored events and projects. This productive relationship looks set to continue in 2006-2009 and this could be further enriched by Nauru working more closely with other networks such as VUSSC and collaborative initiatives in the South Pacific. Nauru is about to ship out its first load of phosphate in nearly ten years. This is a significant step forward in the island’s economic development and could link in with Learning for Livelihoods activities in 2006-2009.