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Honorary Fellow of COL

Professor; Vice-Chancellor; Assistant Director-General; teacher; colleague; and friend of many, Abdul Waheed Khan is a truly global figure in communications and education.

Professor Khan holds advanced degrees from US and Indian universities in Mass Communication, Agricultural Journalism and Agricultural Extension, specialisations that clearly underlie his commitment to communication in the service of learning and livelihood.

From 1986 to 1992, Professor Khan served as the Founding Director and Professor of the Communications Division of the Indira Gandhi National Open University in New Delhi (IGNOU), where he developed one of the largest state-of-the-art electronic media centres in Asia. He was also the Director of Farm and Home Broadcasts for All India Radio and initiated several innovative programmes, including the Farm School of the Air.

Professor Khan worked for the Commonwealth of Learning on two occasions, first between 1992 and 1998 as Specialist for Educational Media and Non-formal Education, during which time the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia was established, and again in 2000-2001 as Director of Development and Training. (Abdul is remembered not only for his professional contributions to COL but also fondly for his culinary ones as well!)

Professor Khan took over as the fourth Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU in 1998 and he steered the world's largest university into the new millennium. During his tenure, the University continued to grow, in India and beyond.

Since 2001, Professor Khan has been Assistant Director-General for Communications and Information at UNESCO where he leads a global effort to empower people through the free flow of ideas and access to learning and knowledge. Among myriad other achievements, Professor Khan coordinated UNESCO's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society.

More than just an eyewitness, Abdul Waheed Khan has and continues to be a global leader during a truly remarkable time in the development of communications, one that has witnessed profound changes in education and how people learn.

Professor Khan,

There has never been a time of greater potential to use communications to support development and peace, and to foster expression and learning; this fellowship is a small gesture in recognising your notable contributions to bringing the world to such a place.

Mr. President and Acting Chairman, I present Professor Abdul Waheed Khan and request that you confer on him the title of Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning.