Commonwealth of Learning
Why COL?

Why in Vancouver?
Canada hosted two summits in 1987
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
Vancouver, 1987

Copyright Commonwealth Secretariat
Memorandum of Understanding

• Signed 1 September 1988
The purpose of COL is

“…to create and widen access to opportunities for learning, making use of the potential offered by distance education and by the application of communication technologies to education. COL’s activities will...strengthen member countries’ capacities to develop the human resources...”

MOU, CHOGM 1988, amended 1995
Regulatory Framework in Canada

- Headquarters’ Agreement
- Foreign Missions and International Organizations Act of Canada
- Income Tax of Canada

Canada
Who are we?

Dr. Linda Sissons, Board Chair

COL’s Vancouver Staff

Professor Asha Kanwar, President & CEO
Who supports COL?

Commonwealth governments make voluntary contributions to COL’s budget

- Canada
- UK
- India
- Nigeria
- New Zealand
- Australia
- South Africa

The number of countries contributing rose from 23 in 2003-06 to 46 in 2013-14
Where is it?

Metro Vancouver (Headquarters)

New Delhi (CEMCA)
Regional Office CEMCA

- **Countries:**
  Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka
RETRIDOL

Regional Centres

Regional Workshop on Developing and Writing Fundable Research Proposals

Organized by the RETRIDAL National Open University of Nigeria in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning
COL in collaboration with the SADC CDE and the COMOSA Africa Chapter, held a workshop in Maseru, Lesotho to develop Quality Criteria for peer auditing of Open Schools in Mozambique and Lesotho.
Regional Centres
Top priorities of what COL can do to further support national agenda of Malta:

- Implementation of the National Curriculum Framework for All
- Setting up of a Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta 2014-2024
- Introduction of tablets in schools and provision of training and infrastructure
- Introduction of vocational subjects in the secondary cycle
- Support for the development of a policy on ODL
Report to

• Education Ministers: CCEM
• Foreign Ministers: CHOGM
PROGRAMMES & STRATEGIES
Commonwealth of Learning
Strategic Plan
2015–2021
Learning for Sustainable Development

- Economic growth
- Social inclusion
- Environmental conservation
GOAL 4

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

More at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal
Quality education leading to effective learning outcomes
Skills for employment and entrepreneurship
Knowledge and skills for peace and global citizenship
Qualified teachers
Post 2015 framework for education: Commonwealth

- **Access**
  every child completes 9 years of basic education & has access to secondary education

- **Quality**
  post-basic education for livelihoods and employment

- **Equity**
  class, gender, special needs, location, age
Focal Points:
Our direct link to each country

Africa & the Mediterranean

Asia

Pacific

Caribbean
“All the initiatives moved successfully forward, on time and within budget. The large majority of the agreed Performance Indicators were met...the relative cost-effectiveness of COL has been commented on favourably...”

Neil Kemp & Glen Farrell, 2015
Impact Evaluation 2006-2015

“COL has had a major impact on individuals… is highly respected and well regarded, flexible and nimble organisation which leverages partnerships… to achieve outcomes.”

Stephen Murgatroyd with Janet Tully, 2015
Programme

Mr. Vis Naidoo
Vice President
Education
Open/Innovative Schooling

Ms. Frances J. Ferreira
Education Specialist
Empowering learners

“I left school in year 5 when I got married at the age of 12. I am now 22 and have 3 children. I went back to school so that I could help my children with their schoolwork.”
During the Ebola Outbreak COL sent OER in 20 subjects to support the Ministry of Education and UNICEF to continue schooling while the schools were closed.
Teacher Education

Dr. Jessica Aguti
Education Specialist
ORELT in Kenya
Using ICTs to enrich teaching & learning

- Collaboration with AVU – 2015
- 1,692 registered
- Use of video clips, graphics and games

Kenya, South Africa, India, United States, Nigeria, Uganda, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Pakistan, Tanzania
Higher Education

Dr. Godson Gatsha
Education Specialist
Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA

11 countries across the Commonwealth with a total enrolment of over 27,000 since 2002.
Leadership Training for VCs

- Improving the quality of higher education
Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)

Mr. John Lesperance
Education Specialist, Commonwealth of Learning
VUSSC: Connecting the Commonwealth
First Graduation

First cohort graduate pursuing a full-time Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture for Small States, Samoa
Skills
Technical & Vocational Skills Development

Dr. Alison Mead Richardson
Education Specialist, Commonwealth of Learning
Technical Training Kenya

Impact: 150% increase in income
Concrete Results in Nauru
Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F)

Dr. K. Balasubramanian
Education Specialist, Commonwealth of Learning
Increasing food security

Every $1 invested in learning, facilitation and networking resulted in $9 worth of income and assets.
L3F in Tanzania

3,300 women learnt through mobile phones, radio and TV and started agri-enterprises during 2014-15 in Tanzania
Technology-Enabled Learning

Dr. Sanjaya Mishra
Education Specialist, Commonwealth of Learning
CCTI in South Africa

Partners’ Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-27, May 2015
Commonwealth Certificate for Teacher ICT Integration (CCTI)

Building knowledge and skills in the use of ICT in the classroom
Gender Cross-Cutting Theme

Ms. Rosanne Wong
Gender Equality Manager
Mainstreaming gender

Integrating a gender equality perspective in programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
Technology & Knowledge Management

Dr. Venkataraman Balaji
Director, Technology & Knowledge Management
“I am so excited about the possibilities that exist using a system of tablets and Aptus. It could have such a huge impact on education in Kiribati, especially on the outer islands. And it is a much more affordable and sensible solution to the needs here.”

Dennis Pack, Kiribati
Aptus

Minister for Education presenting Aptus to manager of national Tablet project in Vanuatu (April 2015)
MOOCs for Development

MOOCs when combined with Open and Distance Learning methods present unprecedented opportunities in sustainable development. COL emphasizes MOOC platforms that provide a good learning experience at low bandwidth and offline where necessary. The mooKIT platform used here meets those considerations.

Recent Courses

- Mooc On Moocs
- Mobiles For Development
- ICT Basics
Strategies

- Models
- Materials
- Capacity
- Policies
- Partnerships