About the Commonwealth of Learning

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1987 to promote the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. Hosted by the Government of Canada with headquarters in Canada, COL is the world's only intergovernmental organisation solely concerned with the promotion and development of distance education and open learning. COL is committed to promoting equitable access to quality lifelong learning for all – believing, in effect, that access to learning opportunities will lead to progress in achieving sustainable development.

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**Vision**
To be the foremost agency in Commonwealth Asia that promotes technology enabled learning for development.

**Mission**
To assist governments and institutions to expand the scale, efficiency and quality of learning by using multiple media in open, distance and technology-enhanced learning.

**Strategic Objectives**
The strategic objectives of CEMCA is to promote co-operation and collaboration in the use of electronic media resources for distance education. The specific objectives are to:

- Serve as a regional technology resource centre.
- Facilitate an effective exchange of information on educational media resources between educational and media organisations in the region.
- Promote greater use of technology in the delivery of distance education programmes.
- Promote linkages with organisations in the region to enhance the availability of educational media resources region-wide.
- Facilitate access to training in the development and use of technology resources for distance education.
- Serve as an information centre on educational technology.

**Strategic Plan**
To achieve the objectives, CEMCA follows a six year strategic plan. COL/CEMCA has identified five core strategies to achieve outcomes and impact: partnerships, capacity, materials, models and policy. In practice, most COL/CEMCA activities incorporate more than one of these strategies and, in some cases, all five.

**Partnerships**
CEMCA partners with government agencies, public institutions, civil society and other organisations to improve and extend teaching and learning services to people in the developing Commonwealth. Partnerships are based on collaboration and shared values and goals.

**Capacity**
CEMCA enables and empowers people and organisations to develop appropriate policies, adopt and adapt models, and develop and use materials focusing primarily on human resource development.

**Materials**
Course materials, toolkits and frameworks for quality or policy-making are produced by partners with COL/CEMCA support. CEMCA publishes all its new learning resources as Open Educational Resources.

**Models**
CEMCA is working to develop sustainable models for Community Radio Stations, and also develop new models of delivery of education. In the past it has developed the model guidelines for Quality Assurance of Multimedia Learning Materials.

**Policies**
COL/CEMCA supports the development of policy for organisations and institutions as well as for governments. Promoting the use of Open Distance and technology-enabled learning, and use of Open Educational Resources require policy development at national and institutional level, and COL/CEMCA supports such initiative through capacity building and advocacy.

**Initiatives**
CEMCA focuses on empowerment through quality education and skill development to bring about social change leading to sustainable development.

**Education**
The Education sector focuses on Higher Education especially open and distance education. The priority is to help Open and Distance Education Institutions to make the best use of recent trends in technology and adopt global best practices in imparting quality learning.

**Skills**
The Skills sector supports institutions and organisations engaged in imparting formal, non-formal and informal learning leading to sustainable livelihoods.

**Focus Areas**
To align with Sustainable Development Goals, CEMCA focuses on:

- Open Educational Resources (OER) and MOOCs
- Flexible & Blended Learning
- Technical Vocational Skill Development (TVSD) leading to sustainable livelihoods
- Reach the unreached by giving access to quality education and training
- Community Learning Programmes (CLPs) for Sustainable Development