Minutes of the Eight Meeting of the CEMCA Advisory Council held at 09:30 A.M on Tuesday, December 02, 2008 at New Delhi.

The following were present:

Sir John Daniel, President & CEO, COL	Chairperson
Prof. Asha Kanwar, Vice President & Programme Director, COL	Dy. Chairperson
Mr. N.K. Sinha, Jt. Secy., MHRD, nominee, Govt. of India	Member
Mr. M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS, India	Member
Mr. Kiran Karnik, Former President, NASSCOM, India	Member
Dr. R. Sreedher, Director, CEMCA	Member
Mr. Dalip Kumar Tetri, Head Admn. & Finance, CEMCA	Secretary

Prof. Rajasekharan Pillai, VC, IGNOU could not attend. Prof. Dr. Mahmood Hassan Butt, VC, AIOU-Pakistan and Dr. M. Farid Ahmed, VC-Bangaldesh Open University, Dhaka, members regretted their inability to attend.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education, Govt. of Maldives and Member CEMCA Advisory Council was represented by Mr. Ahmed Shafeeu, Director General, Ministry of Education. Dr. Mohamed Nasser Bin Mohamed Noor represented Dato' Professor Ir Dr. Radin Umar bin Radin Sohadi –Director General, Dept of Higher Education, Malaysia, member CEMCA Advisory Council.

The Chairman while expressing his happiness at visiting India again conveyed his condolences and deep sympathy to the victims of the Mumbai terror attack, which took place on November 26, 2008. He welcomed the members to the meeting. After the formal introduction of the members, the chairman conveyed his thanks and appreciation to the Govt. of Malaysia for the help extended in organizing the COL Focal Point meeting in October, 2008 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The members too joined the Chairman in expressing whole hearted appreciation for the good work done by CEMCA the past year and exhorted the staff to maintain the tempo.

The Chairman then sought approval of the draft agenda from, the members. Once the approval was conveyed, the following discussion ensued:

Item No. 1 **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Seventh meeting held on December 03, 2007.**

As no comments on the Minutes were received, the Minutes were taken as confirmed.

Item No. 2 **Action taken on the decisions taken in the Seventh meeting held on December 03, 2007.**

A summary of the action on the decisions taken in the seventh meeting was shown through power point presentation to the members.

Item No. 3 **Annual Report 2007-08 and Broad Strategic Plan 2008-09 for CEMCA.**

Dr. Sreedher presented the report of the activities of CEMCA for the period 2007-08 and Broad Strategic Plan 2008-09.

I.   Collaborations

The members were informed that CEMCA has collaborated with the following:

- Collaborated with National Institution of Open Schooling (NIOS), India and developed EasyNow platform for designing self learning instructional material.
- Organized workshop and trained about 25 teachers/professionals from Haryana Open School, India for development of Self Learning Instructional Material (SLIM).
- Collaborated with and organized workshops on EasyNow and UNESCO sponsored "Authoring Tools' at Sri Lanka (OUSL), Bangladesh (BOU) and India (YCMOU-Nashik). 10 teachers were trained in each of these workshops.
- Organized Easynow workshop at Malaysia (OUM) and demonstrated the potentials of Easynow at AMIC-Nanyang Institute of Technology, Singapore.
- Demonstrated a model of IP based Teleconferencing at Wawasan Open University, Malaysia.
- Sponsored teachers from Maldives, Sri lanka and Bangladesh to Disability workshop organized in IGNOU, India.
- Formed two core groups for "Assessment of Standards in Multi Media", one each at Malaysia and India and held workshops of joint group in both the countries. Version 1 of QAMM framework was released in Malaysia in November 2008.
- Organized community Radio awareness workshops in Bangladesh in collaboration with Bangladesh Open University and D-Net, an NGO in Bangladesh and sponsored

a group of people from Bangladesh for on the spot study and gaining experience of working of community radio at 3 locations in India.

- Collaborated with NGOs for community Radio Awareness and Digital empowerment programmes and with industry for development of "Assessment Standards in Multimedia Learning Materials.

II Additional Funding Activities

CEMCA on behalf of UNESCO and Govt. of India undertook the following activities:

a) Executed UNESCO sponsored project on "Authoring Tools" to the tune of US$ 30,000.
b) Executed project "Science for Women Health & Nutrition" amounting to Rs,3,952,000 at 13 locations funded by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India.
c) Conducted two "Regional consultations on Community Radio", one each at Lucknow and Kolkata and a "Workshop for Managers of Community Radio Stations" at New Delhi funded by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India.

The additional funding worked out to the tune of 93% of CEMCA Programme Budget and about 38% of its total Budget.

Dr. Sreedher demonstrated the potential of EasyNow during the meeting, and an interactive session on Skype connecting the CEMCA Office with the locale of the meeting. He mentioned that I-Radio is proposed to be established in Maldives with the help of Malaysian experts and Environmental scan for Mobile Open Distance Education and Learning has been conducted. An exploratory brain storming was held on the possibilities and utility of Mobile Open Distance Education and Learning. CEMCA has offered 150 scholarships for the "Certificate Programme in Community Radio" launched by IGNOU in association with CEMCA. 50% of such scholarships are reserved for learners from the Commonwealth countries of Asia other than India, while remaining 50% are to be dedicated to Indian learners. Advance level SLIM programme is being organized for the teachers and professionals of Haryana Open School. Training of Secondary level teachers is being undertaken and that of tertiary level teachers under consideration. An interactive model of Community Radio is being developed by Mr. M.J.R. David, an expert with BBC Radio, London. Wiki Educator India Chapter was launched in Indian languages (Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil) in November 2008. The Database of ODL experts has been finalized, now available on the CEMCA site and being expanded.

Item No. 4 COL Three Year Plan 2009-12

Prof. Asha Kanwar, Vice President and Programme Director briefed the members about the main features of COL Three Year Plan 2009-12 and stated that Focal points and stake holders have endorsed the current COL TYP and encouraged to continue in the same

direction during 2009-12. In the next Plan emphasize is being laid on two sectors viz Education and Learning for Livelihood instead of three sectors in the current plan.

The basic objective of the next Plan is to integrate learning with livelihood using technology and COL will support learning opportunities that employ easily available and effective technology.

Item No. 5 Regional profile of CEMCA, review and discussion by members

Initiating discussion, the Chairman mentioned that the finalization of the database by CEMCA is an impressive start and a very useful database as it would enable easy access to consultants from Asia, and would be particularly useful to Africa and other regions. The Chairman also said that, fast action on QAMLM is an example of very effective collaboration with Malaysia.

Mr. Sinha expressed the need for a mechanism for testing the quality of e-Material. He said that CEMCA should consolidate what has been done and continue efforts to improve in future. CEMCA, he said, should reach a stage where e-content may be available for mass use.

Dr. Noor expressed the need for recognition of assessment standards on MM by various countries so that the benefit of efforts could percolate down the line. The Chairman informed that the framework of the QAMLM would be presented at the Education Ministers meeting scheduled in Malaysia in June 2009 and added testing of the quality of material would depend on the willingness of the institutions concerned. Dr. Noor also mentioned the need to extend "CEMCA Award to the best ODL student in ICT" to other countries in the region.

It was emphasized that training for development of Self learning instructional material (SLIM) should be on TOT basis. Dr. Sreedher mentioned that SLIM workshops are proposed to be organized for State Open Schools- Haryana Open School and Assam.

Mr. Sinha referred to the meeting held at Symbiosis, Pune, for establishing Consortium of Private ODL institutions and was of the view that it may lead to grouping and emergence of Public Vs Private Sector scenario. The Chairman informed that the meeting was in connection with quality assurance at the tertiary education level and he fully shared the need to combine the efforts by both to achieve optimum results. Mr. Sinha also observed that efforts should be continued to popularize EasyNow and that it should have a translation option, so that the benefit is available in the language of choice.

Touching the TYP 2009-12, the chairman mentioned that three meetings of COL's country Focal Points were held for the Caribbean, Africa and joint Asia-Pacific regions. Important lessons have been drawn from Monitoring and Evaluation and inputs from partners and

global trends have been very useful. The focus has been on learning for development and on Knowledge, Education and Environment.

Intervening in the discussion, Dr. Noor stated that lot has been done for Asia and Africa, while Pacific also needs similar interventions to strike a balance. It was clarified that the "Virtual University for Small States" initiative is becoming a major developmental force with participation of 30 countries and countries such as Fiji, Tonga etc. have reaped benefit from this initiative. Efforts are underway to ensure that at least one tertiary institution in each commonwealth region begins to offer VUSSC courses to students.

Mr. Sinha stated that as technology is fast changing and expanding, CEMCA must move constantly and consistently to remain a relevant player and leader in the field.

Mr. Ahmed Shafeeu mentioned that lot of work has been done in the area of Community Radio and EasyNow and that the COL/CEMCA should continue to plan such initiatives.

Mr. Kiran Karnik expressed concern at the evolving gap between the industry and the work force. He added that there was requirement for vocational training and up-gradation of skills.

Mr. Pant mentioned that ODL should continue to support Education and Livelihood. Intensive use of ICT is required for upgrading skills and to develop vocational courses.

Dr. Noor mentioned the need for recognition of degrees by accreditation boards of various countries to enable study in other countries. Mr. Sinha mentioned that it is ideal to have convergence but each country has specific apparatus for accreditation. India, he said, would like country level, University level recognition. He added that CEMCA should hold discussion with various groups for third party quality certification like ISO type. The council desired CEMCA to initiate research in low cost interactive Teleconferencing –Web 2.0 and establish institutional roots and long term engagement with partners in the region. It should also video film assessment of people about CEMCA.

Action list on the decisions taken in the meeting is attached.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

-Sd-
Chairman

Action items

Item No.	Action item	Time line	Responsibility
	Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, New Delhi		
	Action list on the decisions taken in 8th meeting of CEMCA Advisory Council held on December 02, 2008		
3	• 150 Scholarships offered for the "Certificate Programme in Community Radio" launched by the IGNOU-participation with IGNOU for development of criteria for award of Scholarships.	April 2009.	Dr. Pema
	• ODL Database expansion	November 2009	Ms. Rukmini
	• Organization of Advance level SLIM programme for the teachers and professionals of Haryana Open School.	December 2008	Dr. Pema
	• Training of Secondary and tertiary level teachers.	October 2009	Dr. Pema
	• Establishing I-Radio for Maldives in association with OUM.	December 2009	Dr. Sreedher
	• Interactive model of Community Radio - Development of toolkit by Mr. M.J.R. David, an expert with BBC Radio, London.	September 2009	Ms. Rukmini
4	• Contacts with Brunei and development of collaboration.	September 2009	Dr. Sreedher
5	• Setting up of mechanism to test the quality of e-	November 2009	Dr. Sreedher and Ms. Rukmini

		Material and recognition of standards in QAMM by various countries.		
		• Taking the framework of QAMM to the Education Ministers meeting scheduled in Malaysia in June 2009.	December 2009	COL/CEMCA
		• Extension of "CEMCA Award to the best ODL student in ICT" in the region.	December 2009	Mr. Dalip
		• CEMCA to move constantly and consistently to remain a relevant player and leader in the field and re-engineering for new emerging technologies.	November 2009	Dr. Sreedher
		• Vocational training and up-gradation of skills to bridge the evolving industries gap-development with NIOS.	January 2010	Ms. Rukmini
		• CEMCA to hold discussion with various groups for third party quality certification–ISO type.	May 2010	Dr. Sreedher
		• Research in low cost interactive Teleconferencing –Web 2.0	December 2009	Dr. Sreedher
		• Establishing institutional roots and long term engagement with partners	November 2009	Dr. Sreedher
		• Video filming of independent assessment of people about CEMCA	October 2009	Dr. Sreedher