

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE FOR ASIA, NEW DELHI

Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the CEMCA Advisory Council held at 10:00 A.M on Monday, December 17, 2012 at New Delhi, India.

The following were present:

Prof.Asha Kanwar, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning (COL)	Chairperson
Mr.Vis Naidoo, Vice President, COL	Dy. Chairperson
Dr. Godwin Kodituwakku, Director, Department of Research and Development, National Institute Education Sri Lanka. (Represented Prof. W. M. Abeyrathna Bandara, Director General, NIE)	Member
Professor Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan	Member
Dr.Aishah Binti Abu Baker Academic Development Management, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia.	Member
Prof.Gopinath Pradhan, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India	Member
Dr. S.S. Jena Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling, India.	Member
Dr Chua Chet Shiu, Sr. Asst.Director, Faculty Development, Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (Represented Dr. Daniel Tan Tiong Hok)	Member
Dr. B.S. Bhatia Former Director, DECU, ISRO, Ahmedabad, India	Member
Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA	Member
Mr. R.Thyagarajan, Head, Admn. & Finance, CEMCA	Secretary

Shri. Amit Khare, Joint Secretary, ICC, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, could not attend the meeting.

Prof. Asha Kanwar welcomed the members and requested them to introduce themselves formally.

After the formal introduction of the members, Prof. Asha Kanwar thanked Sir John Daniel, who demitted office of CEO and President of Col for having guided COL/CEMCA for achieving the targets assigned. She welcomed Mr. Vis Naidoo, who has assumed the charge of Vice President of COL in October, 2012 and Dr. Sanjaya Mishra who has taken over the charge of Director, CEMCA on 1 July, 2012.

She complimented the excellent performance of the CEMCA team for the sixth successive year and for its achievements in securing additional funding, for conducting the programmes sponsored by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) and Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, and international agencies such as Ford Foundation. She informed that Government of India has reposed its faith in CEMCA by asking it to host the successive Sammelan of Community Radio stations (congregation) in 2011 and 2012. It serves as strong evidence that CEMCA has spread its reach in the community radio sector over a period. However she felt that CEMCA could not carry out its mandate in Pakistan due to the prevailing political situation and its efforts to extend operations in Brunei Darussalam have not been successful so far. However, the performance in other countries has been satisfactory with definite outcomes achieved.

The Chairperson added that CEMCA, with a small component of 7 staff members, has been successful in meeting challenges and delivering results and making its presence felt in the Commonwealth Asian region.

The Chairperson said with the assumption of duty by Dr. Sanjaya Mishra as Director, the CEMCA will achieve new heights in the areas of Open Educational Resources (OER), formal education, skills development, etc. The three year plan approved by the Board of Governors of COL has a few important areas such as, Skills Development, Girls Education, and the promotion of OER with learning for development as the overarching goal.

The Chairperson further added that CEMCA could serve well in Bangladesh as it has actively associated with civil society through its engagement with Community Radio and health sector. In Malaysia it has engaged with quality assurance of multimedia learning materials in the past. In other countries its activities are sporadic and need focus. Now that the activities are well synergised with the activities of COL, the efforts of CEMCA will certainly be a complementing factor to the overall achievement of three year plan of COL.

She requested Mr. Vis Naidoo, Vice President to say a few words before taking up the agenda items for a detailed discussion.

Mr. Vis Naidoo said that the chair has rightly brought out the importance of skills development and women's education. In fact he has informed the gathering that Asian Development Bank has emphasised these aspects as having great potential in the development of society. He noted that the nine year evaluation that COL is planning will further inform COL/CEMCA on the effect of its initiatives and help improve the implementation and results in the forthcoming years..

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for discussion as follows:

Item No. 1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Eleventh meeting held on September 28, 2011.

The minutes of the Eleventh meeting were confirmed after noting that the comments communicated by Dr. S. S. Jena were already incorporated.

Item No. 2. Action taken on the decisions in the Eleventh meeting

R.Thyagarajan presented the Action Taken Report and informed as under:

- (i) **To help the new open schools in developing SLM and share the developed materials with others**

CEMCA supported GSOS in developing of self-learning materials. Discussions are on-going with GSOS to develop an industry linked course.

- (ii) **To undertake capacity building activity for new functional radio stations including the one at NIOS so as to enable them develop programmes.**

As the community radio station is yet to made functional, CEMCA has organised three capacity building programmes for other functional CR stations.

- (iii) **To help open schools in developing programmes with animation.**

Action was taken for YCMOU by developing a course on Road Transport using Animation and Multi-media. Further effort may be taken for initiating such activity for open schools.

- (iv) **To conduct management development programme/ Good governance programme for other open schools/ ODL universities.**

Two programmes each conducted for National Institute of Open Schooling and Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

- (v) **To help Sri Lanka to develop a bridge course in English.**

Action was not taken due to lack of interest.

- (vi) **To conduct capacity building activity in Pakistan on Community Radio/ I-radio.**

I-radio initiative was implemented in Bangladesh. This activity could not be organized in Pakistan due to lack of policy for Community Radio.

- (vii) **To approach NASSCOM/DEC/NAAC for popularisation and adoption of tool kit on Quality Assurance in multi-media.**

Interaction with the industry to popularise QAMLM was organised at Hyderabad.

- (viii) **To compile the programme developed by different CR stations and bring out a data base for dissemination to all stakeholders and also to avoid duplication.**

“Ek Dunia Anek Awaaz” website for audio exchange of CR programmes was supported. This website has over 1000 programmes.

- (ix) **CEMCA awards for community media to be expanded.**

The awards event for community radio stations, originally envisaged by CEMCA, has now been adopted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India.

(X) CR certificate course is to be adopted in other languages.

Not yet implemented.

(XI) CEMCA should engage macro institutions rather than engaging with individual institutions. CEMCA should play a major role in policy formulations with the governments.

CEMCA is engaged in policy review with Government of India.

(XII) CEMCA should initiate activities for development of OER for open Schools in a few selected areas of Vocational Education.

Action has been initiated for 2012-2013 with NIOS.

(XIII) CEMCA may initiate activities in regard to capacity building of open schools on the multi-media learning inputs with reference to yardsticks incorporated in QAMLM.

Consultation meeting on QAMLM organised with industries and academic partners.

The Chair appreciated Dr. R. Sreedher, the then Director, for having taken action on most of the issues highlighted during the last meeting and thanked him for supporting the community radio sector.

Item No. 3 and 4. CEMCA Annual Report 2011-12 and CEMCA Activity Plan 2012-13

Dr. Sanjaya Mishra presented the annual report for the year 2011-2012 and presented the plan of CEMCA for the year 2012-2013. The Annual Report of CEMCA was shared in a print form and showcased its work in the field of Open School, Higher Education, and Community Radio, including externally funded projects and publications during the period. There were 57 workshop organised during the period.

He noted that CEMCA during the current year, 2012-2013 and coming years will aim at providing continuity and initiate new activities in the sectors that require support.. His presentation also focused on the new vision, mission and strategies to be adopted. The following are the key areas to be focussed on:

1. Open Schooling: Feasibility study for Virtual Open Schooling is under progress and sensitisation workshops are planned to synergise activities of Open Schools through National Consortium of Open Schools has been considered. CEMCA has already conducted one consultation workshop for achieving the targets. Further industry linked course would be planned in association with NIOS or any other state open school.
2. Teacher Education: CEMCA shall attempt to partner with DEP-SSA and any other agency for institutional adoption of ICT integration for teacher education promoted through a Continuous Professional Development framework using a Community of Practice (CoP) model.
3. Higher Education: In association with Wawasan Open University, an on-line course would be developed for training 50 master trainers and 500 on-line teacher trainers who can in turn offer OER-based eLearning in different disciplines.

Within the higher education initiative, as a top-down strategy, ICT leadership programme in higher education has been planned for Vice Chancellors of Open Universities and conventional universities. British council has offered to meet the expenses of five foreign experts and IGNOU has agreed to collaborate in the event to support participation of the VCs of State open Universities. Dr. BRAOU, Hyderabad will be the local host of the event.

OER- quality: Considering the importance of developing quality OER, CEMCA will organise a regional consultation workshop at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, and Prof. Paul Kawachi has been contracted for this purpose.

4. Livelihoods and Health: A programme on CR Technology for CR technicians has been planned. This will form part of ODL strategy in line with national vocational educational framework. Besides, there are plan to develop quality indicators for operation of CR Stations, and focus on capacity building on Women Broadcasters, and develop models for sustainability of CR stations.
5. Dr. Mishra also highlighted the communication strategy of CEMCA including its focus on publications and launch of the new CEMCA website.

Prof. Asha Kanwar complimented Dr. Sanjaya Mishra for his presentation covering CEMCA's Mission, Vision and Strategies. She felt that CEMCA, under his dynamic leadership will certainly achieve the desired outcomes in the initiatives which have been approved.

Thereafter Prof. Asha Kanwar welcomed the members to express their views on the report and the emerging issues which they wanted to highlight.

Dr. S.S.Jena, while appreciating the performance of CEMCA, stated that quality should be the main focus as access to education has, to a large extent been accomplished. He assured that NIOS is always willing to associate with CEMCA, particularly in respect of its activities that would aim at enhancing quality. He emphasised that recognition of prior learning through assessment and accreditation would be considered in line with the National Vocational Educational Qualifications Framework. NIOS would associate with CEMCA in the areas which are of primary concern to it. Besides, he wished that activities relating to the development of OER for open schools in a few selected areas of Vocational Education may be taken up.

Prof. Sangi stated that the activities of CEMCA should be Asia-centric and the expenditure should be proportionally apportioned to all the countries in the region. As Allama Iqbal Open University will be holding the AAOU conference, it would like to hold a pre-conference workshop on an identified theme, such as ICT capacity development for teachers, ICT leadership programme, etc. Finally he welcomed everyone to Pakistan for participating in the AAOU conference.

Prof. Gopinath Pradhan while listing out the successful areas of activities in which IGNOU has excelled over the years, has welcomed the OER efforts in bringing out a course on Economics for Mumbai University. He further stated that a feasibility study could be conducted for popularising OER on areas such as insurance and capital markets. He stated that hardly 2-3% of the population participate in the capital market. Hence CEMCA should identify such courses which would open up new areas which have potential for absorption in the employment market.

Mr. Chua Chet Shiu noted that OER materials should be popularised so that the materials would be effectively used within institutions.

Ms. Aishah Biti Abu Baker requested to partner with CEMCA with the academic programmes that are developed for on-line learning.

Dr. Godwin Koditwakku expressed the wish that efforts should be made for integrating ICT in obtaining gender parity.

Dr. Bhatia stressed that the mobile technology would be useful for reaching the learners while IP radio would be useful for increasing access. CEMCA should try to provide links to OER directories. The country should give some more thought on skills development as the signals that emanate are quite confusing. The QAMLM developed by CEMCA should be pursued further.

Mr.Vis Naidoo felt that quite a lot of valuable suggestions have been put forth and CEMCA should try to link these with the approved TYP and proceed further. The suggestions that have no relevance with the TYP should be considered for the next TYP if those ideas are relevant at that point in time. Similarly partnership with institutions should be looked into vis-a vis the requirement as mandated by the approved plan.

Prof. Asha Kanwar said that the suggestions put forward are really valuable and collaborations required for putting concerted effort to obtain the desired result. The promotion of OER is a strategy to assist local production as well as adaptation of available learning resources. COL's Open Educational Resources on English Language Teaching would help partners to adapt these according to requirement. Distance Education institutions have to consistently review their work and find ways to enhancing standards.. One should not miss the fact that MOOCs are having an impact on the higher education sector and consider how ODL institutions can respond to new developments..

Prof. Asha Kanwar expressed that the CEMCA has achieved commendably in some areas like the Community Radio Sector and moderately in some other areas. She further informed that CEMCA should align its programmes with the COL Logic Model 2012-15 and try to achieve the expected outcomes.

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

Action items

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, New Delhi.

Item No.	Action item
1.	Development of a platform for Virtual Open Schooling for NIOS and State Open Schools in India.
2.	Develop Industrial linked course as Open Educational Resources in partnership with suitable interested organisation.
3.	Promote ICT capacity building of Teacher Educators through a continuous professional framework.
4.	Launch the Open Educational Resources based e-learning course, being developed at Wawasan Open University, online through a Moodle LMS platform.
5.	Promote quality Open Educational Resources in the region through workshops/Seminars/Conferences.
6.	Engage in Technical Vocational Skill Development through Open and Distance Learning by developing appropriate curriculum and training opportunities.
7.	Implement the Certificate Course in CR technology in select Open and Distance Learning institutions.
8.	Further develop the quality indicators for Community Radio operators and engage in strengthening the CR field by focussing on capacity building of community broadcasters and promoting sustainability model.
9.	Undertake more regional activities through partnerships.