

REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR COL'S THREE-YEAR PLAN (2006 – 2009)

Jamaica, November 3rd 2004

A Regional Consultative meeting for COL's TYP was held at Villa Sonate on the 3rd November from 1830 to 2030 hrs. Dr Nancy George, a friend of COL, had made all the arrangements. **Mr Rod Tyrer** made the introductory presentation, which was followed by a discussion among the 18 participants present, resulting in the following suggestions:

1. There was need for more advocacy for ODL and ICT-enhanced education and training.
2. While UPE is no longer a priority for the Caribbean (primary education 6-11 is compulsory), the areas which need focus are Early Childhood Education and Secondary Education.
3. Teacher Education continues to remain important especially in English and Maths, Special Education, Parents Education and Training of Trainers.
4. The need for Higher Education was stressed.
5. Education must be seen as a continuum and promoted in all its aspects rather than taken up in discrete segments.
6. Quality Assurance is seen as a priority issue both at the national and regional levels.
7. COL could make useful interventions in the area of HIV/AIDS, which has assumed an urgency in the Caribbean, second only to Africa.
8. The need to focus on Literacy and Livelihood/TVET was stressed.
9. COL could develop short courses/modules to contribute to the needs of retired personnel.
10. The VUSSC initiative must be pursued but with caution and piloted before scaling up.
11. COL must develop a Learning Object Repository to support resource-based learning.
12. COL must promote the concept of blended learning.
13. With only 34 persons on its rolls, COL must carefully prioritize its programs in a realistic manner.
14. COL still needed more visibility in the region.