

**COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE FOR ASIA, NEW DELHI.**

**Minutes of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) Advisory Council (CAC) held at 10:00 A.M on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 at New Delhi.**

**The following were present:**

Prof. Asha Kanwar  
President and CEO,  
Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Chairperson

Mr. Vis Naidoo  
Vice President, COL Dep. Chairperson

Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Khan  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Information and  
Communication Technology  
And National Project Director,  
Access to Information project,  
Prime Minister's Office,  
Bangladesh. Member

Professor Dr. Parveen Munshi  
Dean, Faculty of Education,  
University of Sindh,  
Hyderabad,  
Pakistan. Member

Ms. Sameera Ali  
Director, Foreign Relations Section,  
Ministry of Education,  
Velaanage 9<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Male 20096  
Maldives. Member

Dr. Sitansu Sekhar Jena  
Chairman,  
National Institute of Open Schooling,  
A-24-25, Institutional Area,  
Sector 62, Noida. Member

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali  
Vice Chancellor,  
Open University of Malaysia,  
Jalan Tun Ismail,  
50480, Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia. Member

Prof. Vinod Pavarala UNESCO Chair on Community Media (India), Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh- 500 046.	Member
Dr. Sanjaya Mishra Director, CEMCA, New Delhi.	Member
Mr. R. Thyagarajan Head, Admn. & Finance, CEMCA New Delhi.	Secretary

Apologies:

Shri. Anant Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Central University and Languages, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India,  
Dr. Vijitha Nanayakkara, Vice Chancellor, the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Prof. Asha Kanwar welcomed the members and spoke about the new constitution of the council following the expiry of the tenure of the previous members. She expressed her gratitude to the past members who have contributed to the success of CEMCA. She informed the new members about the role and functions of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and CEMCA, which is the Regional Unit of COL and caters to the needs of South Asian Commonwealth countries. She requested the new members to introduce themselves formally.

After the introduction of the members, Prof. Asha Kanwar spoke about the origin and growth of Commonwealth of Learning during the last twenty five years. She stressed the fact that COL originally gave impetus to the activities that targeted increasing access to higher education through advocating the use of Open and Distance in developing countries. Over the years, COL has used the Millennium Development Goals and Education For All goals, Commonwealth values and country needs to shape its programme and further embraced non-formal education and training. Further COL noted the needs of small states and responded to the call by Commonwealth Education Ministers from small states to address their education and development needs. This led to the formation of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSCC) and now there are 31 small states participating.

She complimented CEMCA on its achievements during the last year. She complimented the excellent performance of the CEMCA team, under the leadership of the Director.

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 COL is evaluating its activities that were undertaken during the last nine years so that it could reflect whether the activities were fulfilling the objectives and impact expressed in the Mission, Vision and Strategy documents. He felt that such an assessment will reveal the impact of the activities undertaken during the last nine years and it

will allow us to shape the future programmes. He noted that the Advisory Council's deliberations always resulted in fruitful recommendations that enabled CEMCA to expand its activities to all the countries in the region. He requested the members to support CEMCA to establish partnerships in countries where it could not penetrate in the past.

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

**Item No. 1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting held on December 17, 2012.**

The minutes of the Twelfth meeting were confirmed unanimously.

**Item No. 2. Action taken on the decisions in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting**

Mr. R.Thyagarajan presented the Action Taken Report:

**(i) Development of a platform for virtual open schooling (VOS) for NIOS and state open schooling.**

CEMCA, subsequent to entering into an MOU with NIOS, has sensitised the staff of NIOS and State Open Schools through a three days capacity building workshop on the concept of VOS and the technology proposed in the feasibility report. Development of VOS is under progress and it would mature during the current year.

**(ii) Develop Industrial linked course as OER in partnership with suitable interested organisation.**

This activity could not be taken up during the year under report. However this activity will be achieved during the current year.

**(iii) Promote ICT capacity building of teacher educators through a continuous professional development framework.**

A Community of Practice (COP) network for teacher educators was developed. CEMCA organised three five-day workshops and trained 57 teachers on the use of ICT. CEMCA is developing a resource book on ICT integrated teacher education.

**(iv) Launch the Open Educational Resource based e-learning course (being developed at Wawasan Open University), using Moodle as the LMS platform.**

Organised two workshops on OER based e-learning at Wawasan Open University (WOU), Malaysia, where teachers from WOU, Asia e-university, Open University of Malaysia, Open University of Sri Lanka, AIOU, Indira Gandhi National Open University, and National Institute of Open Schooling participated. The OER based e-learning course is under development.

**(v) Promote quality open educational resources in the region through workshops/seminar/conferences.**

A regional consultation workshop on developing quality guidelines for OER was held at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. A group of forty participants,

including 15 scholars of high repute in Open Distance Learning and Open Educational Resources participated in the workshop. Ten experts from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia,

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Sri Lanka and India presented their views. The deliberations were compiled and published as a book, entitled “Quality Assurance Guidelines for Open Educational Resources”.

**(vi) Engage in technical vocational skill development through open and distance learning by developing appropriate curriculum and training opportunities.**

The Government of India has established the National Vocational Educational Qualification Framework (NVEQF). CEMCA, in association with the National Skill Development Corporation, Sector Skills Councils, State governments, MHRD and NIOS, had organised a workshop for finalising a strategy paper. Since the policy framework is circulated only in the latter half of the year under reporting, CEMCA is pursuing the development of appropriate curriculum during the current year.

**(vii) Implement the certificate course in community radio (CR) technology in select Open and Distance Learning Institutions.**

CEMCA is developing an academic programme for technical support persons of Community Radio. The modules are at the editing stage. Broadcast Engineers Consultants India Limited is associated with this task. The programme will be launched during the current year by partner organizations and institutions.

**(viii) Further develop the quality indicators for Community Radio operators and engage in strengthening the CR field by focussing on capacity building of community broadcaster and promoting sustainability model.**

The Community Radio Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) was published in collaboration with UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad. It was developed through two consultation and validation workshops involving experts and CR Stations. CEMCA mentored two CR stations in the civil society sector on various aspects of sustainability. In Bangladesh, the issue of sustainability of CR was explored in a workshop mode with Radio Mahananda and Chapai Navabganj in association with BNNRC.

**(ix) Undertake more regional activities through partnership**

CEMCA organised three regional activities during 2012-2013 with participants from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and Bangladesh.

**Item No. 3 and 4. CEMCA Annual Report 2012-13 and CEMCA Activity Plan 2013-14**

Dr. Sanjaya Mishra presented the Annual Report for the year 2012-13 and presented CEMCA's 2013 – 2014 plan. He noted the range of activities in CEMCA's initiatives (Open Schooling, Teacher Education, Higher Education, Technical and Vocational Skill Development, Community Media) and the progress achieved. He further reported on projects based on external funding, awards and scholarships offered. There were 36 workshops/events

organised during the period in which 868 (male 502 and female 366) people participated. The participants were from India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

He noted that CEMCA will focus on the following during 2013-2014:

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1. Open Schooling: CEMCA will develop the platform for Virtual Open Schooling which will cover the exam module and will be completed in partnership with NIOS. Further, CEMCA will be involved in content development and capacity building activities. One industry linked course on “Sound Design” will be launched on the lines of NVEQF.
2. Teacher Education: The focus will be on promoting teacher ICT integration using blended learning methods. In addition the Community of Practice of Teacher Educators would be continued and three workshops would be conducted.
3. Higher Education: In association with Wawasan Open University, an on-line course on OER based eLearning will be developed with Open Badges. A Regional Tutor training workshop will be held in January, 2014 at BRAOU, Hyderabad. The OER tips developed during 2012-2013 would be translated in Urdu and Chinese and published through recognised institutions. The Quality Guidelines developed would be tested at University of Delhi by developing four courses as OER.
4. Technical and Vocational Skill Development: In partnership with BECIL, a programme on Community Radio Technology would be developed as OER for adoption by certifying institutions. CEMCA would develop ODL strategies to implement NVEQF courses in association with NIOS and State Open Schools.
5. Community Media/ Healthy Communities: Community Women Broadcaster Training course will focus on the development of a sustainable model for CR Stations in India and Bangladesh, The use of the quality framework and toolkit for CR stations, strengthening of community content exchange platform and supporting the development of web radio would be implemented during the current year 2013-2014.
6. E-Learning: CEMCA would complete the Virtual Open Schooling initiative and undertake further activity in the field of Web Radio and ICT integrated blended learning. Audio content exchange platform (using the Internet) would be developed to enable the active exchange of programmes amongst stations. The result of the eLearning Survey in Asia would be distributed widely to the stakeholders.
7. Gender: All activities of CEMCA have gender considerations, and special efforts are made to increase participation of women in activities. Awards and scholarships will continue to be offered to best women students. Community women broadcaster training would further support the empowerment of women in local communities.
8. Knowledge management: Publication of *EduComm Asia* would be continued. CEMCA new website has already attracted viewers and hence CEMCA would focus on strengthening its website with new features and social networks.
9. Additional contribution: CEMCA will continue to work with UNESCO and support the activity on developing curriculum and self-directed learning material on Open Access. The IDRC supported two year research project on OER will also commence in December 2013.

Prof. Asha Kanwar complimented Dr. Sanjaya Mishra for his presentation covering CEMCA's achievements and plans for 2013 – 2014. She felt that CEMCA's achievement is noteworthy considering the fact that both the programme officers' post had been vacant for a considerable part of the year.

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

Mr. Vis Naidoo stated that the activities listed for the year 2013-2014 were in line with the three year plan of COL. The evaluation of COL/CEMCA work during the last nine years would serve as a point of reference for planning the activities in the next three year plan.

Prof. Anuwar Ali appreciated the Annual Report. He suggested that CEMCA may further be involved with established ODL institutions and private universities for expanding its activities and achieving the predetermined goals.

Dr. S.S. Jena noted that the Distance Education Council has been taken away from IGNOU and placed under the UGC. A committee has been constituted to frame regulations for ODL which would be in force once adopted. CEMCA should be involved in the deliberations of the committee and support its implementation. Similarly UGC has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ram Takwale to evolve policies on MOOCs. Since Dr. Mishra has significant expertise in this field, CEMCA should review the policies being developed. He further added that the Virtual Open Schooling concept should spread across the country so that the state open schools would also replicate this model. This model can also be used elsewhere in the Commonwealth. He informed the Council of emerging opportunities to use eLearning models. For example, the post office in India is undergoing changes which require all personnel to be re-trained. He stressed the fact that CEMCA should be more involved in policy formulation in all these areas.

Prof. Vinod Pavarala complimented CEMCA for its work in the last year, and emphasised that the continuation of the EduComm Asia is a welcome step. He said that the educational institutions and NGOs who are running CR Stations should synergise their efforts to improve community outreach.

Prof. Asha Kanwar said that the concept of ODL is undergoing changes with the advances in technology. There is greater emphasis on online learning as can be seen through VUUSC and MOOCs. CEMCA could help institutions make sense of these new developments. CEMCA should build networks to perform a catalytic role and build new partnerships.

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

## Action items

### Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, New Delhi.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Action item</b>
1.	Carrying forward the concept of VOS and launch the platform.
2.	Promote policy development in the area of ODL, MOOCs and OER.
3.	Contribute towards the creation of skill development courses using open and distance learning.
4.	Release of Community Radio Technology certificate course materials as OER
5.	Offer OER based eLearning programme for professional development of teachers.
6.	Revise and develop the Peer Assessment model for Community Radio.
7.	Further contribute towards Community Women Broadcasters' Training and CR sustainability.
8	Work towards overall achievement of TYP and undertake an evaluation of select activities.