Higher Education Open and Distance Learning Knowledge Base Project

By

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UNESCO

UNESCO Division of Higher Education

INTER-REGIONAL PROJECTS (CI AND IIEP)

GLOBAL PROJECT

UNESCO, Bangkok for Asia and Pacific Region

UNESCO, Harare with SAIDE for African Region

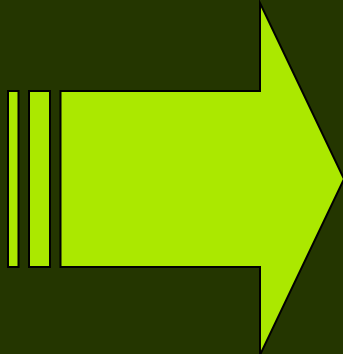**UNESCO IITE and National Technical University of Ukraine for CIS Countries**

OBJECTIVE

To develop an information tool for decision-makers in developing countries to promote quality higher education provisions through open and distance learning

STRATEGIES

PHASE THREE

Briefing and training workshops for policy makers on ODL Knowledge Base and Expert System

1) Profile of ODL Providers

2) Issues and challenges

3) Sources of information and use of ICT in ODL programmes

6) Contributions to the building of knowledge base

Needs Assessment Survey

4) Information needs and preferred contents

5) Intended use of ODL Knowledge Base

Major Findings of the study

Well exposed to information technology with almost all of them using email and Internet everyday

All have Internet connection and about 40% with dial up type of connection and the rest with leased lines

Most utilized channels for delivering ODL are print-based media, with study guides and learning modules as most used

Issues Raised

Quality assurance and mutual recognition

Policy and management

Academic programmes and eLearning recognition

Lack of ODL training for teachers

Funding and loan policies

Lack of expertise in use of technology in ODL

Technology access and affordability

National and international networking and collaboration

Information Needs

Quality assurance and mutual recognition

Best practices on policy formulation

Country policies on ODL

Successful ODL programmes

Research findings on delivery methods

Best practices on international networking and collaboration

Management strategies

Most popular uses of the Knowledge base website

1. Knowledge updating

2. Researching

3. Experience sharing

4. Writing papers

5. Developing policy and programme management

6. Networking

Professional contribution to the KB maintenance
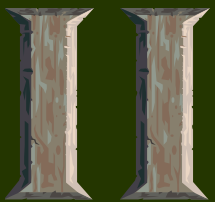
Writing articles

Updating the site

Reviewing the website content

Objectives of KB Website

I

To provide information to help policy makers, administrators and decision makers to make decisions, formulate policies, develop strategies, programmes and plans and manage ODL programmes

II

To provide up-to-date, good quality and relevant information on various dimensions of ODL

Objectives of KB Website

III   **To serve as network for international collaboration by providing a platform for electronic exchange and discussion of issues and information, ideas, experiences, lessons learned and best practices**

IV   **To provide a gateway access to ODL databases and knowledge resources**

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Primary Target Audiences: Policy makers, administrators and management personnel in the following institutions/organizations:
1) ODL institutions
2) E-Learning/On-Line institutions
3) Colleges and universities
4) Higher education institutions
5) Ministries of Education in charge of higher education
6) Information and communication technology organizations and institutions
7) ODL companies (commercial sector)
8) Donor agencies for ODL
9) UN and international organizations engaged in ODL.

Secondary Target Audiences:

1. **Practitioners in ODL and ICT: instructors/teachers, resource persons, curriculum developers, educational technologists, media specialists, researchers, information specialists, ICT specialists, software programmers, instructional designers;**
2. **Students and learners both on and off campuses;**
3. **General**

About Us
-Rationale, objectives
-List of contributors
-ODL FAQ/Glossary

Academic Programmes
-Types of programmes: degrees, certificates
-Academic policies
-Curriculum structure and design
-Knowledge management and courseware production
-Team concept
- Evaluation: paper-based, electronic, practical work.
-National and collaborative programmes

Technology and Delivery System
-ODL media structure
-Delivery systems
-Infrastructure (hardware)
-Media structure and production
-eLearning (use of 1st and 2nd generation)
-Appropriate technology (instructional design, system design, learning environments)
-Techno-collaboration
-Planning technology
-Training in the use of technology.
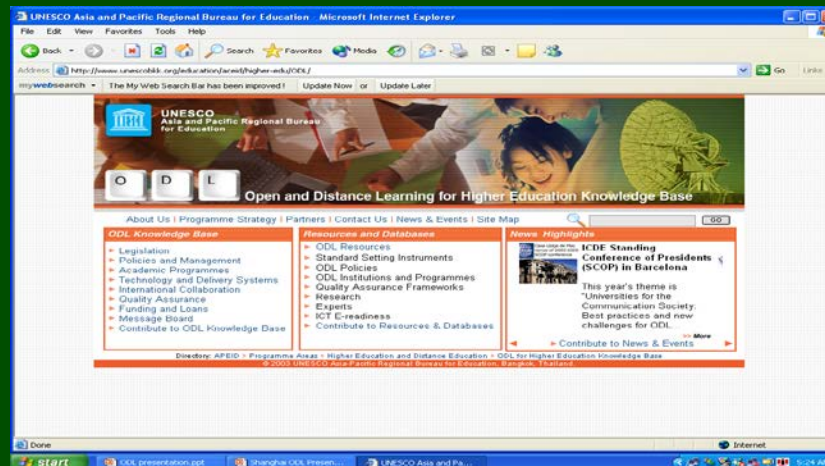
International Networking and Collaboration:
-Examples, best practices
- International Events
-Staff Exchanges
- Multilateral agreement
-Mutual recognition between institutions-
-Regional and International (RGO, SEAMOLEC, NGO)
-Networking of ODL providers
-E-Learning cross border issues

Legislation
-ODL agreements
-Intellectual property and copyright
-ICT and Internet-related laws

ODL Policies and Management
3.1 National policies
-Examples by country
-Synthesis of national policies
-Guidelines in formulating comprehensive national policies
3.2 Institutional policies
- Examples from selected institutions
-policy analysis framework
3.3 Policy research
3.4 Management
-Administrative matters
-Finance, accounting and budgeting
-Regional and local study centres

Message Board, News and Events
-ODL Announcements and Forum
-News and Events
-Archives
-Online submission of forms

ODL Knowledge Base and Resources:
-ODL organizations and associations
-ODL research
-Bibliographic database
-ODL consultants
-Publications-

Quality Assurance:
-QA and mutual recognition
-Measures of QA
-External accreditation
-Internal assessment and external review
-Research findings on ODL programmes

Funding and Loans:
-Seeking funding sources
-National strategies for funding ODL
-Student fees
-Endowment
-Bank policies for loans
-Income generation

Advisory Board

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