

12. International Collaboration

12.0 Introduction

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) interacts and collaborates with international organisations like COL, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA. The collaborative programmes are in area such as:

- Capacity building
- Resource sharing
- Information and experience sharing

12.1 Open Schooling Association of the Commonwealth (OSAC)

The Open Schooling Association of the Commonwealth (OSAC) was set up in 2001 with support from the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada. It fosters consultation, information exchange, and sharing of resources among members. It performs clearing house functions, facilitates research and exchange of database in open learning, in addition to publishing a half yearly journal titled OSAC Journal of Open Schooling.

12.2 Training through International Centre for Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS)

NIOS has set up the International Center for Training in Open Schooling (ICTOS) with the specific objective of providing quality training in Open Schooling. By virtue of being the largest open schooling organization in the world, and with a vast fund of experience, it was thought appropriate NIOS organize advocacy and training programmes in Open Schooling for developing countries. A Training center, with facility of an international hostel, has been designed at the new campus of NIOS at NOIDA.

Training is imparted through face-to-face, interactive training sessions and through certificate/diploma courses through distance education.

12.2.1 Training of Senior Educators from Developing Nations National Institute of Open Schooling collaboration-

September 2007

Thirteen senior educators from Sierra Leone, Ghana, The Gambia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Kenya, and Trinidad and Tobago underwent intensive training in open schooling under the NIOS-COL programme from September 14 to 22, 2006, at New Delhi. This was the fourth such training programme for developing nations hosted by NIOS. The programme covered various aspects of open schooling. The outcome of the training programme was the development of a country Report and a proposed framework for instituting an Open School by each participating country.



12.2.2 Certificate in Open Schooling

Realizing the need for training in open schooling, NIOS introduced the International Certificate In Open Schooling (ICOS). Advanced Certificate course and Diploma in Open Schooling have also been planned as advanced courses after completion of the basic certificate course. Development of the course material for the Advanced Certificate Course was initiated during the year 2006-07.

12.3 Staff Training at NIOS in collaboration with International Agencies

12.3.1 Workshop on “Editing Of Self Learning Materials In Printed Medium For Open Schools” NIOS-COL Collaboration- May 2006

NIOS organizes training programmes for capacity building of its staff, in recognition of the fact that the success of an organization rests on the competence of its staff. Dr. Clayton Wright, an eminent educationist in the field of open and distance learning, from Canada, was invited to conduct a five-day workshop for the Academic Staff from May 15-19, 2006 at New Delhi. The outcome of the training workshop was development of a pool of top-rated open schooling professionals at NIOS who can be used as master trainers/resource persons for open schooling elsewhere in the world.

12.3.2 Orientation of NIOS staff on “Disaster Risk Management” NIOS-UNDP Collaboration - July 2006

An awareness programme about “Disaster Preparedness, Prevention and Mitigation” was organized by NIOS-UNDP for the Academic staff of NIOS on July 27, 2006 at New Delhi. Relevant materials developed by UNDP were made available for incorporation in the self-learning materials that reaches out to people nationwide.

12.4 International Conferences hosted by NIOS

12.4.1 Regional Planning Workshop on Equivalency Programmes for the Promotion of Lifelong Learning NIOS-UNESCO Collaboration- July 2006

UNESCO-Asia Pacific Programme of Education of All (APPEAL), Bangkok, in collaboration with NIOS, organized a five-day “Regional Planning Workshop on Equivalency Programmes for the Promotion of Lifelong Learning” at Jaipur from 17 to 21 July 2006. The objective of conference was to review and share experiences as well as to build capacity of Non formal Education (NFE) personnel to effectively

develop, implement and evaluate programme amongst different countries of Asia in the implementation of the Equivalency Programme. Participants from ten countries viz Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, along with UNESCO officials from its offices at Bangkok, New Delhi and Cambodia attended the Workshop. Officials from MHRD, Govt of Rajasthan also attended the workshop.



The Workshop was inaugurated by Sh. Ghanshyam Tiwari, Minister of Education, Govt of Rajasthan while the Valediction was presided over by Shri MAA Fatmi, Minister of State, Govt of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

As an outcome of the workshop, country plans for effective implementation of the Equivalency Programme were formulated.

12.4.2 International Roundtable On Increasing Access To Quality Basic Education For Girls NIOS- COL Collaboration- September 2007

The objective of the Roundtable were to identify barriers to the access to education by girls, to develop strategies to overcome these barriers, and to increase access to girls to basic education. Participants to the Roundtable included educationists from India and other developing nations such as Sierra Leone, Ghana, The Gambia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Kenya, and Trinidad and Tobago, representatives from NGOs working in the area of girls' education and government representatives. As an outcome of the Roundtable, recommendations were made to national governments and COL to strengthen efforts for girls' education, formulate quality indicators for assuring quality in schooling and develop strong inter-linkages for working in the area.



Participants of International Roundtable On Increasing Access To Quality Basic Education For Girls NIOS- COL Collaboration

12.4.3 Regional Seminar for Discussions on Vocational Education through Open and Distance Learning NIOS-UNESCO Collaboration- December 2006

The first Regional Seminar for discussions on Vocational Education through Open and Distance Learning was held on 28th December 2006 at New Delhi. The objective of the seminar was to obtain feedback on the Curriculum Framework for Vocational Education developed by NIOS. Participants of this Seminar included experts in Vocational Education from the Northern States, educationists, and distance educators, officials from MHRD and UNESCO officials. The Seminar was inaugurated by Sh MAA Fatimi, Minister of State, Govt of India Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Shri S.C Khuntia, Joint Secretary, MHRD, Prof. Ashok Chandra, Former Secretary, Govt. of India, Dr. Uma Tuli, Chairperson, Amar Jyoti Foundation, Delhi, Shri M.C. Pant, Chairman, NIOS and Shri D.S. Bist, Secretary, NIOS were the prominent participants.

During the Seminar the draft Curriculum Framework was discussed and vetted by experts and suggestions were made for its finalization.

12.5 NIOS Representation at International Events

12.5.1 Fourth PAN Commonwealth Forum

A delegation of officials from NIOS led by Shri M.C.Pant, Chairman NIOS participated in the fourth Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning held in Jamaica from 29 October to 3 November 2006. This

delegation included Shri D.S.Bist, Secretary, Dr. Sushmita Mitra, Director (SSS), Shri R.K.Arya, Joint Director (Media) and Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Deputy Director. NIOS officials interacted and presented papers in various session.

The Commonwealth of Learning conferred the designation of Honorary Fellow of COL upon Father T.V. Kunnunkal, founding Chairman of National Open School (now National Institute of Open Schooling) in recognition of his individual contributions to open and distance learning.



12.5.2 International Conference on Making Inclusive Education A Reality- RCI (India)- UNESCO- March 2006

Dr. K R Chandrasekaran, Director (Academic), NIOS participated in the two-day conference on “Making Inclusive Education a Reality” from March 23 to 24, 2006 at Gwalior, India. Measures to encourage inclusive education and special provisions made by NIOS in this regard were discussed.

12.6 Foreign Visitors to NIOS

12.6.1 UNESCO-JIFT EFA Evaluation Team

A UNESCO-JIFT EFA evaluation team of experts from Japan and Bangkok visited NIOS from 6 to 10 March 2007 to evaluate UNESCO-NIOS Research Study “Models of Equivalency Programme” Phase-II. The evaluation meeting was attended by the Chairman, NIOS, Director (Academic) and concerned faculty members. The team visited Deepalaya (OBE Centre) on 10 March 2007 to review the working of the Equivalency Programme.



Delegates at Fourth PAN Commonwealth Forum

12.7 NIOS Resource Support to Developing Nations

12.7.1 NIOS Support to the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)

NIOS is the first Open School to have initiated the On Demand Examination system for its secondary courses. The success of this programme has enabled many learners to continue with their education without

fear of the tyranny of the examinations. Under ODES, NIOS has developed a Question Bank for different subjects at the secondary and senior secondary levels.

Upon receipt of the specific request for the National Open University of Nigeria, NIOS deputed two experts, Shri SK Prasad, SAP and Sh Giju Xavier to Nigeria from 6 to 22 November 2006 to set up the ODES System there. This was a joint project of COL, NIOS and NOUN.