COL orchestrated sessions

Please complete the following proforma as far as possible and return to
pcf5@london.ac.uk by 10th March 2008.

Title of session:

Youth taking action: employing innovative approaches, technologies and content

Name of COL Staff Leader/s:

Helena Fehr, Board Secretary & Gender Officer
Tanyss Munro, Education Specialist, Governance

Chair or leader of session (if different from 2) with position and title

Fatiha Ferour, CYP and/or Cristal Stainbank, CYP, Pan-Commonwealth Office (TBC)

Length of session required

1 x 180 minute session (Session A)
1 X 90 minute session (Session B)

Names of other planned contributors:

Session A
Mr. James Odit, CYP Africa Centre
Ms. Akwasi-Boahene, WUSC ("Girls' Clubs in Northern Ghana")

Session B
Ms. Amy Monaghan, COL ("Youth & Free Web-based Applications")
Mr. Alan Woodley, OUUK ("Digital Democracy")
Representative from British Council
Representative from Oxfam
Representative from Creating Local Connections West Africa (CLC WA)

Discussants/Facilitators/Rapporteurs
Mr. Vighnarajah Selvarani (Malaysia)
Ms. Margaret (Waitherero) Mburu (Kenya)
Mr. Kiran Maharaj (TNT)
Ms. Tasvea Sabrin, Secretary, World Youth Citizen Forum (Bangladesh)
Mr. Kelly H. Yapa, University of Papua New Guinea

Equipment/computer access required (other than standard PowerPoint etc)

TBC

Ideal lay out of room

TBC

Hoped for numbers of participants

Other information

Collaborative sessions between Children & Young People theme and Governance theme

Revised abstract for web site and printed programme (max 300 words)

Approximately half of the population in Commonwealth countries is under the age 24; three-quarters of whom reside in developing countries. A 2006 survey of young people (and their governments) conducted by the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment highlights an array of social, economic, environmental, and political challenges young people identified as important: environmental degradation; social exclusion (i.e., economic, academic, the digital divide); diversity and tolerance; equity and succession-planning; and peace-building (particularly in post conflict situations and within their families and peer groups). Can young people be a more integral part of decision-making processes concerning these issues?

The challenge for the ODL community is to find innovative ways of collaborating with, and supporting the work of, young people engaged in making a difference in their communities. What kinds of governance enable young people to become active members of their society? How do youth interact with their communities at the local and national levels? What are the barriers and opportunities for youth to participate in meaningful ways in their community including political participation, employment and livelihoods? How can technology-mediated learning approaches contribute to improved quality of activities and facilitate greater access to existing initiatives? What models currently exist? What is the potential of the new social networking technologies to meet these challenges? Can these models be adapted to reach marginalised youth with limited or no access to online learning?

During two sessions, participants will explore models, approaches, innovative learning content and processes such as peer learning, high-end and low-end technologies, and the experiences of young people involved in decision-making processes.

Session A will explore approaches, technologies and content; Session B will focus on developing an action plan for involving youth in all levels of the decision-making process using ODL. Participants will engage in the development of a forward plan.