

VIRTUAL CENTRE FOR INNOVATIVE



Prof. Alain Senteni
Director

In the year 2002/2003, several projects were initiated by the VCILT in the pursuit of enhancing the quality of innovative teaching and learning practices and promoting lifelong learning. In line with these projects, the Centre needed to expand its human resources as well as its infrastructure to sustain the different ongoing activities.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Development and Delivery of Online/Web-Enhanced Modules for the University

In the academic year 2002-2003, 23 modules were delivered as online/web-enhanced modules through the virtual campus of the University.

Service to the Community (Computer Proficiency Project)

IT Proficiency course

In line with the Government vision of making Mauritius a cyber-island, the CPP (Computer Proficiency Project) was set up to deliver a mass training course on IT Proficiency. In this respect, the VCILT developed the CD-ROM and a study guide. After developing the contents of the IT Proficiency modules, VCILT contributed in the training of trainers. Approximately 5000 trainees (including teachers of the primary and secondary schools and civil servants) were trained through the CPP.

Test Centre

The CPP approached the VCILT to develop a system to generate multiple-choice questions in order to enable participants, who followed the IT Proficiency course, to obtain a Certificate in Computer Proficiency. A start on the Certification process was made.

MRC Teaching Science/History

This project was an initiation by the Ministry of Education towards the development of Multimedia Educational Materials for primary level students. In this respect, the VCILT submitted two proposals on History and Sciences; as a result the MRC, through the Unsolicited Research Grant Scheme, selected the Centre to work on the project History/Geography through ICT at primary level.

Development of New platform - iLearn

As from October 2002, a Virtual Campus platform has been under development at the VCILT. The platform is based on the customisation of the Ganesha open source platform. The iLearn, when achieved, will provide the University with full autonomy in the delivery of On-line/Web-enhanced modules.

Supervision of final year BEng Computer Science and MSc IT conversion students

In the academic year 2002-2003, the VCILT was involved in the supervision of academic projects related to the BEng and MSc level of the Computer Science department of the University. A total of 7 BEng and 5 MSc level dissertations were supervised by the VCILT.

School IT Project

The Government of Mauritius launched a tender on the School IT in order to enable the effective use of Information Technology as a supporting tool in the education sector. In that respect, the VCILT made a bid in March 2003 and was thereby short-listed on the RFP on Educational Software for School Laboratories on the following seven packages:

1. Basic Computer Skills
2. Word processor and a simple drawing package
3. Logo
4. Mathematics
5. Sciences
6. Multimedia Authoring - Web authoring-Movie Editor
7. Role Playing Games/Discovery Games

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Prof Alain Senteni

1. visited Université de la Réunion for a meeting in connection with the International Conference on Open and Online Learning (ICCOL) 2003 from 25 to 28 October 2002.
1. attended a meeting in Reunion Island on 25 November 2002 regarding the organisation of the ICCOL conference.
1. was on mission in Montreal, Canada, from 16 to 24 December 2002, in connection with the MIT-OCW and OKI projects, as a follow up to the visit of Prof A. Dufresne in November 2002.
1. visited Reunion Island from 31 January to 3 February 2003 in order to:
 - (i) Attend a meeting on Carrefour sur l'image de l'Océan Indien et l'école de l'Internet .
 - (ii) Discuss matters on the organization of the International Conference on Open and Online Learning (ICCOL) 2003.
 - (iii) Meet students of DESS program, planning to come on internship to the VCILT.
1. attended a Press Conference on the 10th March 2003 in Reunion Island in connection with ICCOL 2003 and on the 11 March 2003 he gave a training on Communautés Virtuelles et Développement Régional .
1. attended the 8ème Université de la Communication de l'Océan Indien at University of Reunion from 20 to 23 May 2003.
1. was on mission to France from 2 to 6 June 2003 where he:
 - (i) Attended the Second Colloque de Gueret to present a paper entitled Innovative, Pédagogique et Technique en Histoire l'Ile Maurice .
 - (ii) Had a meeting with the International Association of Universities (IAU) in relation with ICCOL 2003 Conference.
 - (iii) Had a meeting with Prof Jean Pierre Vilotte (IPGP) to collect information for the Science and Technology Park.

Mr Soobhash Sonah

1. visited the University of Concordia, Canada, from 26 August to 6 September 2002 regarding the e-learning environment.
1. was on mission to University of Bordeaux, France, from 21 to 23 October 2002 to meet professors in the field of e-learning.

VISITORS

- 1 Honourable Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Communications, IT and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India visited the Centre on the 1 October 2002.
- 1 Prof Jean Francois Perrot visited the VCILT on 15 October 2002.
- 1 Prof Aude Dufresne of UniversitØ de MontrØal, guest at the VCILT from 2 to 10 November 2002, worked on the future development on Learning Objects Repository (LOR). She also provided help to define collaborative scheme for future developments with LICEF and gave lectures on LOR and e-Learning.
- 1 Mr Serge Montagnan of Reunion Island visited the VCILT from 19 to 21 February 2003 to provide assistance and advice in the setting up of the Multimedia Unit at VCILT and organised a three-day training session on the aspect of image editing to VCILT staff
- 1 Upon request, Mr GØrard Perron from Reunion agreed to give a training session on Interactive Multimedia (QuickTime VR) from 12 to 28 April 2003 to VCILT staff
- 1 Mr Pierre Gigord of the RØunion island visited VCILT to work on a feasibility study for the setting up of School of the Internet in the Indian Ocean region from 16 to 18 June 2003.
- 1 Dr (Mrs) Beatrice Salviat, INRP, Institut National de Recherche pØdagogique, France was at VCILT from 24 to 30 June 2003 for a training session on La Main La P te and the teaching of science in the Virtual andEducational Community.

OTHER EVENTS

- 1 VCILT participated in the INFOTECH 2002 from 11 to 13 October 2002.
- 1 A delegation of Doctoriales de L Ocean Indien visited the Centre on 24 March 2003.

INTERNSHIP

- 1 Mr ClØment Robial from ENSEEIHT France was on internship for a period of six months as from 17 February 2003.
- 1 Mr Mathieu Lapierre, Mr Yannis Jogama and Mr Brice Tournville, from Institute de L Image de L Ocean Indien (ILOI) of Reunion Island, underwent industrial training at VCILT from 12 May 2003 to 25 August 2003.
- 1 Mr Alexandre Bernard, Mr Sebastien PosØ, Mr Jonathan Gilles, Mr Jean-Didier Elisabeth, Miss Erika Marksene and Mr Anthony Koo Seen Li were foreign students from UniversitØ de la RØunion under an exchange programme from STIC-UTP for the period 17 June to 15 August 2003.

NEW APPOINTMENT

- 1 Mr Kenny LI WAN YAN was appointed System Analyst, on 26 August 2002.