

**AN EXPLORATION OF CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL CO-OPERATION IN
DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

by

'Mapitso Tsebo Sekoati

BSc (UBLS), Dip.Ag (University of Queensland), MEdAdmin (UNE)

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ABSTRACT

The prospects of cross-institutional co-operation in the development of distance education courses as an alternative to the establishment of regional (trans-national) distance teaching universities are explored.

With a review of the literature pertaining to the recorded performance of regional universities as background to the study, an exploration of cross-institutional co-operation in course development addresses potential benefits of such ventures, providing answers to why individuals/institutions would engage in them; the extent to which they have been practised among Australian higher education institutions; whether, in practice, they have been a success or failure; and the factors which have led to the success or failure of those ventures. A comparison of the factors affecting the operational success of regional (trans-national) universities with cross-institutional co-operation in course development is effected.

Examination, through survey and interview, of the models of cross-institutional co-operation in course development that have been practised among Australian higher education institutions, identifies the academic and economic benefits of such projects; the desirable personal attributes of participants; the significance of interpersonal relations among course development team members; and the institutional administrative and contextual factors considered necessary for the success of such co-operative projects.

Cross-institutional course development, while neither popularly embraced, nor easy to implement, would appear to be the most effective means of negating the major problems which militate against the successful operation of regional universities, viz. those deriving from issues specific to contributing members relative to equity, inequity and benefits accruing, together with those deriving from issues of national politics and interests.

The study also suggests two broad models for effective cross-institutional course development ventures.

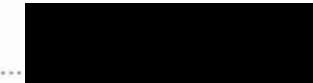
DECLARATION

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently submitted for any other degree.

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'Mapitso T. Sekoati

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

COL	-	Commonwealth of Learning
COSC	-	Cambridge Overseas Schools Certificate
CFTC	-	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Education
CTEC	-	Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission
DEET	-	Department of Education, Employment and Training
EES	-	European Economic Space
EFTA	-	European Free Trade Association
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
IDESA	-	Institute of Distance Education for Southern Africa
IEMS	-	Institute of Extra Mural Studies
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
ILO	-	International Labour Organisation
ISNAR	-	International Service for National Agriculture Research
JC	-	Junior Certificate
LDTC	-	Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre
LIPA	-	Lesotho Institute of Public Administration
NIH	-	Not Invented Here
NTTC	-	National Teacher Training College
NUL	-	National University of Lesotho
RSA	-	Republic of South Africa
SADC	-	Southern Africa Development Community
UBBS	-	University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland
UBLS	-	University of Bechuanaland, Lesotho and Swaziland
UEA	-	University of East Africa
UNISA	-	University of South Africa
USP	-	University of the South Pacific
UWI	-	University of the West Indies
WADEC	-	Western Australia Distance Education Centre