The Australian Government’s Overseas Aid Program

The Virtual Colombo Plan (VCP)
AusAID Approach

To advance Australia’s national interest by assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

www.ausaid.gov.au
“For the developing world to bridge the 'digital divide', new technology must be harnessed and adapted in order to be a useful and an effective tool and help combat poverty”.
“the new plan provides a platform for Australia’s world-class technology companies, research institutions and education providers to share their knowledge and skills”
VCP Components:

- Basic Education
- Knowledge Infrastructure and Delivery
- Higher Education
VCP Technologies

- video
- CD ROM, DVD and networked
- video-based conferencing
- internet
- radio
- face-to-face and print

- internet
- CD ROM, DVD and networked
- video-based conferencing
- internet
- CD ROM, DVD and networked
- video-based conferencing
- internet
- CD ROM, DVD and networked
- video-based conferencing
Opportunities ...

- offer cost savings
- ensure training materials remain current
- increase access for marginalised groups
Challenges ...

- insufficient infrastructure
- lack of technical support
- lack of appropriate content
- high start-up and recurrent costs
- illiteracy and lack of ICT skills
- acceptable as a means of knowledge delivery?
Issues...

- explicit developmental goals
- beneficiary ownership
- financially and institutionally sustainable solutions
- a holistic approach to incorporating ICTs
VCP Project examples

- PNG Primary & Secondary Teacher Education Project
- African Virtual University
- China Global Development Learning Centre in Ningxia
Global Development Learning Network

Linking the World Through Learning

- health
- poverty reduction
- private sector development
- urban development
- rural development
- economics
- social development
- education
- entrepreneurship
- environment
- technology
- population
- development finance
- governance
GDLN

- fully interactive, multi-channel distance learning network with a development mandate
- tool to build global partnerships to help reduce poverty
- unique partnership of public, private and non-governmental organisations
What can the GDLN do?

- enables decision makers around the world to learn, exchange experiences, work on common challenges
- provides cost-effective alternative to face-to-face learning
- allows participants to learn in their home environment
GDLN Product Lines

Courses
Video-conference sessions complemented by electronic learning and online collaboration

Global Dialogues
Video-Conference Seminars
Computer-based Courses
GDLN Program for Thursday 7 March

- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV preparatory meeting for Asian countries 03:00 AM
- Transparency in Infrastructure Concessions 06:00 AM
- Capital flows, monetary policy and international financial system 07:30 AM
- Journalisme Economique des Affaires - Groupe 20 9:00 AM
- Contratación Administrativa en obras de infraestructura pública 11:00 AM
- CURSO INTRODUCTORIO: APLICACION Y CUMPLIMIENTO DE LA NORMATIVIDAD AMBIENTAL EN AMERICA LATINA 03:00 PM
- Reducción de Desastres a través del Plan Nacional de Emergencia - 2 DIAS 03:00 PM
EAP GDLN Coverage

Sites operating by FY03-04
Distance Learning Centers

Videoconference room:
- 30 seats
- 10 PCs
- Video screen - 256K connection
- Synchronous data screen
- Teaching desk

Multimedia Room:
- 30 PCs
- 512K connection to Internet

Connectivity: Video, voice and data by VSAT through Washington DC on one of 3 satellites

Linking the World Through Learning
Development Gateway Foundation

- Australia is a founding member – contributed $10m
- representation on the DGF board
- 4 main activities:
  - Development Gateway portal
  - ICT development forum
  - network of research & training centres
  - grants & investments in innovative ICT projects
What is the Development Gateway?

- a partnership of govt., private, civil society, bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies and individuals
- a portal for development issues with two main elements – a Global Gateway and Country Gateways
- theme pages on development issues
- access to country gateways
- Dg-market for e-procurement of tenders
- AIDA – provides a common access point to information on over 330,000 activities
Development Gateway Key Objectives

- poverty reduction and sustainable development through knowledge sharing
- community-based knowledge initiatives and capacity building
- knowledge and access to aid activities
- supports a network of Country Gateways for building capacity and sharing knowledge and experience
Development Gateway Topics and Discussions

Topics

These are areas where the Development Gateway currently concentrates its knowledge-sharing efforts. Here you can browse the contents of topics that are of interest to you, read the contributions of others, contribute resources, and become a member of a topic community. The free membership allows you to receive updates, and to participate fully in this part of the Gateway. We welcome your comments at any time.

Aid Effectiveness  HIV/AIDS  Microfinance
Business Environment  ICT for Development  Non-Governmental Organizations
Culture and Development  Indigenous Knowledge  Poverty
E-Government  Indigenous Peoples  Privatization
E-Learning  Indigenous Rights  Trade and Development
Food Security  International Environmental Law  Urban Managers
Foreign Direct Investment  Judicial and Legal Reform  Water Resources Management
Gender and Development  Knowledge Economy

Development Focuses

This section intends to explore issues of more immediate and urgent interest. The list below can change frequently, depending on the events and trends that take center stage in the development community. Each focus area, however, offers the same type of content and functions that you will find in the topic pages. We welcome suggestions on other focus areas that we might launch, as well as your reactions to the ones that appear below.

Post-war Reconstruction and Development in Afghanistan
Argentine Crisis

Additional topics will be covered by the Development Gateway as the site grows and new content partnerships are formed.
Country Gateways

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<td>AUSTRALIA – LAUNCHED</td>
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Sustainable Development Through Sharing Australian Knowledge...

This gateway provides developing countries with information from government, private sector, civil society and academic sources - an Australian initiative under the Virtual Colombo Plan

Australian Knowledge
Education and Distance Learning
Agriculture
Health
Information Communication Technology

Australian Resources
Government
Australia's Overseas Aid Program
Development Contractors
Non-Government Organisations

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Development News
New agriculture aid...
Immunisation program announced...
Over $31 million offered for health research in the Asia Pacific...

News Centre
Radio Australia

What's New on the Gateway
Education Gateway databases now available
News Centre incorporates audio files

International Resources
Regional Organisations
Development Gateway Foundation
Country Gateways

Virtual Colombo Plan
The Australian Gateway goals:

- mobilise new development and related content from Australian institutions
- develop partnerships
- develop online information and search tools to access current knowledge in specific areas
- provide a platform for demonstrating and testing innovative software approaches
The Australian Gateway goals:

- provide a platform to publish research relevant to ICTs in development with a particular focus on basic education needs and related policy development
- provide a central location for information on the VCP
- enable access to information on Australian content provided through the GDLN and other resources
The Australian Gateway Phase 1:

Australian Knowledge:

- 4 sectors and our partners:
  - Education – ACER, EdNA
  - Agriculture – ACIAR
  - ICTs – NOIE
  - Health – Dept. of Health & Ageing
The Australian Gateway Phase 1:

Australian Resources provides links to:
- Government
- AusAID
- Development Contractors
- NGO’s
- International Resources
- Development News
- News Outlets
Australian Gateway Audience?

Those working in development across our region:

- government officials
- policy makers
- development professionals & contractors
- development agencies
- academics & researchers
- teaching institutions
- private sector
The Australian Gateway Phase 2:

Where to from here?

AusAID will tender for a contractor to commence Phase 2 (by end 2002)

- dynamic site
- expansion of current 4 sector areas
- inclusion of governance focus
- inclusion of forums
- further partnerships
**VCP – How to get involved?**

- find out about AusAID’s priorities from our country strategies
- contact the country desks
- contact the AMCs

VCP – Australian Expertise

- what overseas linkages and partnerships do you have?
- what has been your experience with ICT-based distance education?
- what content can you provide?

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Thank you