

ABSTRACT

PLENARY 2

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

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Enough for Everyone

In his lecture on the occasion of the launch of the Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning in 2007, Professor Abdul Waheed Khan, in his role as Assistant Director General for Information and Communications at UNESCO, coupled with his past experience as a Vice-Chancellor, provided his thoughts on the role of universities in the context of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The three roles he identified for universities to address Goal 7 of the MDGs were:

- Sharing expertise both in science and technology and in the social sciences and humanities;
- Providing the basis for understanding interdisciplinary nature of environmental concerns and solutions; and
- Delivering scientific responses to environmental problems in a socially relevant manner.

Without disputing that these points are all extremely valid, my belief is that each one of us, individually and at an organisational level, must, at the very least, lead by example in managing sustainability. As university leaders, we must demonstrate to our immediate and global communities, a personal responsibility for how we manage our own health and the health of our environment. Furthermore, we should seek to instil these principles and values in all our stakeholders through our core business of teaching and learning and research, as well as through engagement with our communities.

My presentation "Enough for Everyone, Forever" will demonstrate what we, at Edith Cowan University, have achieved at an organisational level in this regard.