



Chapter One

SEMINAR RECOMMENDATIONS

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NATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR BOOK DEVELOPMENT

1. Governments might wish to recognise book publishing as an essential Social Service and accord it suitable priority in their national development plans.
2. A National Book Development Council should be established in each country to co-ordinate all book publishing activities and to advise governments and other agencies on the planning and promotion of a national book industry.
3. One particular Ministry should be designated as being responsible for all matters concerning the national book industry.
4. All countries should aim at providing their school children with the textbooks they require. In educational publishing school textbooks should receive the topmost priority. Textbooks should be prepared indigenously and as far as possible published locally.
5. Further, in order to facilitate freer flow of funds and other facilities to promote indigenous book industries, governments might wish to classify book production and publishing as a priority industry entitled to concessions and considerations afforded to other such industries.
6. Immediate consideration should be given by governments to the reduction or removal of taxes and excise duties on the raw materials indigenously produced and which are used in book production.
7. Governments should also consider the removal of restrictions on the import of all materials used in the making of books, including machines, spare parts, paper, board and binding materials.
8. In order to make books accessible to remote parts of the country Governments should give priority of consideration to the reduction of postal rates on books.
9. Consideration should also be given by governments to the granting of tax concessions to local publishers and authors as is already the case in some countries of the Commonwealth.

10. Public and School Library systems should be established or strengthened as vital components not only of socio-economic growth but also of a viable national book industry.
11. The levy of a cess of some type should be considered for assistance in the financing of library services.
12. Children's and National Book Weeks, Library Weeks, Book Fairs and Festivals should be organised as a measure towards establishing and promoting the reading habit.
13. Study should be given to the formulation, where relevant and advisable, of co-operative societies and professional associations of personnel concerned with the book industry.
14. Governments should use some of the scholarships and bursaries offered by developed countries to train personnel for the book industry and should, in their own national scholarship and bursary programmes, make awards for training in book production.
15. Governments should organise national seminars and workshops for training in various aspects of book production, calling where necessary on the Commonwealth Secretariat, Unesco, and other international organisations for assistance in planning and organisation of these programmes.
16. Any country which does not already have domestic laws governing copyright might wish to formulate these and consider, if it has not already done so, becoming a signatory to one of the international copyright conventions.
17. Countries which have no laws governing the statutory deposit of a copy of all published books in one or more national libraries or centres should enact one: those that have should take steps to enforce it.
18. Governments might consider it advisable to enact necessary legislation to ensure the adoption of international standard book numbering in respect of books published in their countries.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMONWEALTH CO-OPERATION

Information

1. The Commonwealth Secretariat should establish a Commonwealth textbook reference library of textbooks and supplementary readers in English published for and in the developing countries of the Commonwealth.
2. An annotated and descriptive list along with regular supplements should be compiled from the above and circulated to relevant personnel in governments and other interested agencies throughout the Commonwealth.
3. Any Ministry of Education should be free to request the publisher for two inspection copies of any title listed, for examination as to its suitability for use in its schools or for adaptation or translation, subject to the procurement of the necessary rights.
4. A similar collection and list should be compiled of children's books published in the developing countries of the Commonwealth which are in languages common to two or more countries, e.g. Hindi, Tamil, Malay, Bengali, English, etc.
5. The Commonwealth Secretariat should consider the compilation and publication of guide-lines to publishing in the developing countries.
6. The Commonwealth Secretariat should compile and circulate a manual on the organisation of Children's Book Weeks, National Book Weeks, Library Weeks, Book Fairs and Festivals.
7. Consideration should be given to the exchange of advertisements and book reviews on a bi-lateral, regional or Commonwealth basis, especially those from countries which do not publish a book trade journal.
8. The Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee should be asked to give consideration to extending their Newsletter to contain a regular section on book development in Commonwealth countries.

Research

9. In order to meet their book development policies efficiently and economically, the assessment of printing plant, other production facilities and trained personnel should be undertaken by consultants at the request of particular countries.

10. In order to make available textbooks within the purchasing power of students, further consideration should be given to the integration in certain regions of curricula to enable joint language and/or regional textbooks and supplementary readers to be produced in subjects like science, mathematics and English as a secondary language.
11. Assessment should be undertaken of the viability of establishing national or regional wholesalers in certain regions for the distribution of books.
12. A study should be made of the type-faces and sizes available in the various national and local languages which do not use the roman alphabet, with a view to recommendations being made as to cases in which it would be desirable to design and cast new type-faces.
13. Studies should also be made of the feasibility of romanising certain alphabets to enable standard and regional type-setting facilities to be more widely used; and of the simplification of certain non-roman alphabets to make type-setting easier and more economic.
14. An assessment should be undertaken of type-setting, printing and binding facilities in certain countries which might be made available to other countries.

Training

15. The Commonwealth Secretariat should assist in making available consultants to advise on and help in the establishment or improvement of the expertise of the local publications units.
16. Workshops on a national or regional basis should be organised in various fields, of which the following are recommended as priorities:
 - a. Publishing management
 - b. Editing
 - c. Production techniques for publishing personnel
 - d. Book design and illustration
 - e. The production and distribution of textbooks and supplementary readers
 - f. The publication of children's books
 - g. Distribution and marketing techniques
 - h. Bookselling
 - i. The functions of the teacher-librarian
 - j. The techniques of translation and the production of multi-lingual editions

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17. The exchange of printing and publishing personnel for in-service training between Commonwealth countries should be encouraged.
18. Further consideration should be given to the establishment of a permanent Regional Training Institute which, with a full-time staff, which would conduct short and long-term courses in all aspects of publishing and authorship, in design and illustration, bookselling and printing technology, as well as conduct research and surveys. For this purpose the Commonwealth Secretariat's draft proposal for a Regional Training Centre (1970) may be re-examined in the light of current needs and resources.
19. Under the Commonwealth Book Development Programme further consideration should be given to the proposed Commonwealth Fellowship Scheme to include the provision of a substitute teacher or research worker to enable authors of school or tertiary level textbooks to concentrate full-time on their task of producing a manuscript.
20. Consideration should be given to the organisation of intensive editing/team-writing workshops designed to produce actual manuscripts of textbooks ready for production.

General

21. Consideration should be given to the establishment of Commonwealth Regional Book Development Councils and a Commonwealth Book Development Council.
22. The Commonwealth Secretariat should be requested to make available, free of copyright, reproduction "pulls" of certain of its publications of value to teachers and other educationists.
23. The Commonwealth Secretariat should be requested to provide governments with details of the scheme for the production of a low cost series of children's picture books in full colour.
24. In the selection of texts for syllabuses in modern literature suitable works of literature from the developing countries should wherever possible be given priority.
25. The Commonwealth Secretariat should investigate the possibility of providing for countries that need it a model copyright law.