

PROGRAMME OF TRAINING AND SUPERVISION
FOR THE EFFICIENT USE OF SCHOOL SCIENCE EQUIPMENT
AND THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO THEIR USE

In discussing production of science equipment in the Caribbean a necessity which the meeting had earlier identified was to ensure that the equipment produced would be put to the best advantage. It had been suggested that there should be adequate teacher preparation, both at the pre-service and in-service levels, and that the teacher education programmes should include some training in the preparation and use of equipment. During the discussion of the lead paper on "Programme of Training and Supervision for the Efficient Use of School Science Equipment and the Dissemination of Information Relating to their Use", the meeting focused its attention on the development and establishment of in-service training centres at local, sub-regional and regional levels. It discussed the structure, organization, management and equipment of such centres.

Caribbean Regional In-Service Training Course for Science Teachers

The meeting agreed that like the proposal for a Caribbean-wide production unit, discussed earlier, the establishment of a Caribbean regional training centre should be looked upon as a long-term goal while, in the meantime, attempts are made to set up local training centres.

Local training centres should be established to undertake in-service training programmes for teachers and technicians in the use of school science equipment related to the local curriculum. Such bodies should also liaise with teacher training colleges, ministries of education, curriculum development centres, and resource centres, and organize workshops where prototype equipment could be developed and produced.

It was further suggested that if it was necessary to site a centre within an existing institution, care should be taken to ensure that its director and staff should be distinct from those of the host institution, although the staff of the latter could be expected to help when requested, with work of the training centre.

It was recognized that in some territories more than one centre would be required to ensure that teachers requiring training did not have to travel long distances. In such cases it was suggested that co-ordination would be done by the Ministry of Education, or the Science Teachers' Association where such a body existed. In any case, the Ministry of Education should be involved in work at training centres since it would ultimately be required to provide funds for their operation. Further, in order to ensure that the centres would be effective, the question of inter-territorial co-operation aimed at co-ordinating and monitoring their activities was raised. It was suggested that the Caribbean Regional Organization of Associations for Science Education, or another appropriate organization such as the Caribbean Regional Science Project, be requested to perform the functions of a regional monitoring body.

Teacher Centres

Because teacher centres have a very important role to play in improving the quality of teachers, many countries have already established such centres. Depending on size, need and means, a territory may decide to set up one centre or a number of centres. Where such teacher centres existed, the need for setting up special centres for science teachers would be obviated.

The meeting agreed that such centres should be set up in Commonwealth Caribbean countries. Accordingly, the Commonwealth Secretariat was requested to provide information about the equipment, organization and management of such centres.

Existing Media Facilities

It was generally agreed that the dissemination of knowledge about the use of educational materials was linked with teacher training in that any teachers who have undertaken a course are potential sources of information in their school and in the community as a whole. However, the meeting decided to explore other forms of disseminating information. Media facilities existing in the countries represented are radio, television stations, newspapers, information bulletins of science teachers' associations, government information services, and films.

The table on page 21 gives the position of such facilities in the countries represented at the Seminar/Workshop. It was suggested that governments should be encouraged to make more extensive and effective use of these facilities.

EXISTING MEDIA FACILITIES

	Radio	T V Station	News- paper	Bulletins	Others	Comments
Antigua	Yes	Yes	Yes	Government Information Services	Limited film unit	T V Station is government-owned
Bahamas	Yes		Yes	Newsletter Teachers' Union	Audio-visual	T V soon - Media easily accessible for educational materials
Barbados	Yes	Yes	Yes	Science Association Newsletter	Government Information Services	Media easily accessible for educational materials
Belize	Yes		Yes	New Belize	Audio-visual Teachers' Union	
Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Newsletter	Resource Centre	Not economically accessible - newspaper prefers articles of general nature
British Virgin Islands	Yes		Yes	Teachers' Publication		
Dominica	Yes		Yes	Government Information Services		Newspaper prefers articles of general nature
Grenada	Yes		Yes	STAG	Department of Education - film unit	
Guyana	Yes		Yes	STAG	Audio-visual unit	Audio-visual materials from UK
Jamaica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Science Publication API	Torch, Clarion	
St Kitts	Yes		Yes	Government Information Services		
St Lucia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Government Information Services		
St Vincent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Government Information Services		
Trinidad & Tobago	Yes	Yes	Yes	Science Teachers' Association	Audio-visual	Audio-visual materials from UNESCO