

INTRODUCTION

The Third Commonwealth Regional Training Course on Educational Administration and Supervision took place in Bridgetown, Barbados, for the Commonwealth Caribbean from 14 May to 13 July 1979. It was hosted by the Government of Barbados in association with the University of the West Indies, at the Cave Hill Campus.

The Fifth Conference of Commonwealth Ministers of Education held in Canberra in 1971 was the first Commonwealth Education Conference to discuss specifically the subject of educational administration. It expressed support for the training of professional and administrative personnel in education and for the clearing-house role of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Between that Conference and the Accra Conference of 1977, three regional workshops in educational administration were held. The first was in Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1973, the second in Georgetown, Guyana in 1974 and the third in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1975. By that time the value of regular Commonwealth in-service meetings for educational administrators had been established and the Jamaica Conference of 1974 which adopted the theme "Managing Education: Innovation, Implementation and Consolidation" had agreed that consideration be given to the establishment of regional and inter-regional centres for training educational administrators and supervisors.

A planning meeting for the organisation of such centres which was held in Nairobi in November 1975, drew on the experience of the three workshops of 1973 to 1975. It provided the framework of the regional courses, the first of which was organised for Commonwealth Africa and took place from January to March 1977 at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Its participants were senior educational administrators and inspectors. When the Seventh Commonwealth Education Conference met in Accra in March 1977, the Nairobi course was drawing to its close. Its success led the Conference to endorse a continuation of the Secretariat's programme of such regional training courses and a recommendation that governments should consider making regular provision in their national budgets for the training of personnel in the various sectors of educational administration. Following the Accra Conference, therefore, a second regional course was held in Fiji for the Commonwealth Pacific in 1978.

The present report describes the planning and implementation of the Commonwealth Caribbean course, the third and last in the current series. It was the shortest, lasting 9 instead of the 12 weeks of the first course. This report is devoted largely to the presentation of a selection of material used on the course and considered likely to be of value to the planning of in-service programmes for educational administrators. It also includes a short review of all three regional courses organised so far by this Division. On the basis of the experience gained, which was welcomed by the Colombo Conference (1980), further initiatives in pursuit of the various options are aimed at assisting the provision of such courses for various cadres of educational administrators at senior policy levels through much shorter courses than so far organised.

The Commonwealth Secretariat wishes to record its appreciation to the Government of Barbados for the generous support it provided for the course. Our thanks are due to the many officials in schools and offices throughout Barbados who welcomed participants to their places of work and assisted them

during the attachment element of the course. The co-operation of the Ministry of Education and Culture in St Lucia enabled the participants from Barbados to spend their attachment period in a different setting - highlighting the vital importance of the support of member governments to the success of Commonwealth educational co-operation. The course also drew similar support from the School of Education of the University of the West Indies at all levels, especially Professor A.S. Phillips, Professor and Dean of the School of Education and Sir Sydney Martin, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus. The local Course Director, Mr R.D. Goodridge, Vice-Dean of the School of Education, Cave Hill, was the key figure in its development and progress, and with his team of experienced educators, gave more than might have been expected of a nine-week course. Dr M.K. Bacchus, Professor of the Sociology of Education at the University of Alberta, Canada, who served as consultant, made a sterling contribution to the course and enabled it to retain a Commonwealth perspective throughout its duration. Of course, a vital component consisted of the 18 participants themselves from 15 Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean who shared mutual knowledge and skills and deepened their awareness of the issues contributing to effective management in their countries.

In offering all of them and other Commonwealth educational administrators this report, the Commonwealth Secretariat believes that the sharing of such experience is the foundation of all Commonwealth educational co-operation and trusts that educational practitioners will find the report a useful tool in their national efforts at in-service staff development.

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