

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The growth of technical education in Commonwealth developing countries continues to be retarded by a shortage of teachers with the necessary technical and pedagogical skills to staff the expanding polytechnics and technical institutions.

Drawing attention to this problem, the Seventh Commonwealth Education Conference held in Accra in March 1977 urged that "known shortages of technical teachers ought to be made good in all possible ways". It recommended that the Commonwealth Secretariat should compile a directory of facilities for technical teacher training to complement existing Commonwealth directories of training resources in member countries. This directory is accordingly offered as a source of information for authorities who seek additional facilities for the training of technical teachers outside their own countries. Although it was intended that the directory would be concerned with training facilities for teachers at the post-secondary level, it became clear during preparation that training for secondary technical teachers was an even more urgent and growing need in member countries. In response to this situation, the directory contains information on training facilities for both levels of technical education.

Under the Secretariat's Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the movement of students and trainees is encouraged between developing countries of the Commonwealth. The directory is therefore concerned primarily with facilities in developing countries and only marginally with those in developed countries. However, some technical teacher training facilities in developed member countries have been included because these offer training in specialised areas and are used by national and international authorities to augment training resources in developing countries.

In particular, the directory describes some important and very relevant facilities in the UK. The successful history of these facilities, the large scale on which they have been and are being used as partners in the implementation of developing countries' plans make them a natural target for those able to attract assistance in the form of bursaries from the UK Government itself or from international agencies. Notes on the UK system are provided under the appropriate geographical heading.

The directory is concerned only incidentally with industrial training. However, there are certain training institutions which provide training courses for industrial instructors alongside teachers in educational institutions; while other teaching institutions require staff to teach in a context where technical education and industrial training are virtually synonymous. Information about instructor training has not been sought systematically, but has been included where available and relevant. In several Commonwealth countries of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean well-developed facilities for training the trainer have been developed, often with the assistance of the ILO and further information about these is usually obtainable from Ministries of Labour in member countries.

This directory would not have been possible without the excellent responses which we received from Ministries of Education and relevant institutions and our thanks are due to the many officers through whose co-operation the detailed survey questionnaires were completed and returned to the Secretariat. Inevitably, the time lag between the gathering and publication of information, in the rapid development of technical education in the Commonwealth, leads to the incidence of gaps in the latest information provided in any directory. This Division would appreciate any information on extensions to existing facilities and the establishment of new ones, so that revised editions through which we hope to update and preserve the usefulness of the directory may be more comprehensive. It is our hope, meanwhile, that all those involved in the provision of training facilities will find the present directory a valuable contribution to their efforts.

Finally, the Commonwealth Secretariat is grateful to Mr Michael Collins, our consultant for the survey, for his valuable assistance in the preparation of the directory.

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