

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation to Heads of Government

1. It is recommended that at their meeting, later this year, Commonwealth Heads of Government consider expressing encouragement and support for teaching about the Commonwealth in schools, other educational institutions, and the community as a whole.

Specialist Conferences

2. It is recommended that in view of the different preferences expressed at the Seventh Commonwealth Education Conference on the subject of a Specialist Conference, the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee should, after due consultation, make a selection from among the following:

- (a) The integration of science and mathematics education with technical and vocational education, and the place of this subject group in the school curriculum.
- (b) Curriculum planning and educational assessment.
- (c) Non-formal education.

Recommendations on Special Areas of Educational Activity

Higher Education and the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan

3. The Commonwealth Secretariat should continue the collection and dissemination of information on improving programmes for the teaching performance of staff in tertiary institutions.

4. It is recommended that:

- (a) The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Programme be continued as a valuable link between member countries, and that the number of awards made under the Plan be increased to an overall figure of 1,500 in any one year.
- (b) Consideration be given to the provision by developed countries of Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Programme awards for their nationals in developing countries, and for developed countries to provide third country awards under the Plan.

Science Education

5. It is recommended that:

- (a) The Commonwealth Secretariat should explore fruitful ways by which member countries could co-operate in the supply of science and mathematics teachers.
- (b) A third workshop on low-cost science teaching equipment should be held in either the Pacific or Asia.
- (c) The Commonwealth Secretariat should explore the possibility of creating a small pool of low-cost science equipment.
- (d) The Commonwealth Secretariat should continue to explore ways of overcoming the problems of shortage of equipment.
- (e) Appropriate programme funding should be made available by the Secretariat to certain non-governmental, national, regional and international organizations including professional bodies to develop relevant, effective, and innovative programmes in science education in member countries.
- (f) The Commonwealth Secretariat should publish a resource book about science materials produced in various countries, and the experiences people have had in using them.

Technical Education

6. It is recommended that;

- (a) One further Commonwealth Regional Seminar/Workshop on Technical Education and Industry be held.
- (b) A study be made of the problems encountered in technical examinations.
- (c) A meeting be convened to consider the establishment of an association of polytechnics in Commonwealth African countries.
- (d) The desirability and feasibility of a regional staff college in Africa for technical education be explored in consultation with all interested parties.
- (e) Proposals for a Commonwealth Exchange Scheme for Industrial Training and Experience be worked out in detail and commended to member governments.

Book Development

7. The Commonwealth Secretariat should:

- (a) Keep in touch with innovations and experiments in paper and book technology throughout the world, and communicate whatever information it obtains to member governments.
- (b) Continue to provide assistance to the work of existing National Book Development Councils in Commonwealth developing countries, and help in establishing new ones.

- (c) Consider providing study visits for personnel connected with book development.
- (d) Give high priority under the Commonwealth Book Development Programme to supporting the establishment of courses in book production in regional training centres in Commonwealth developing countries.
- (e) Endeavour to give support to national bibliographies.
- (f) Provide educational libraries and curriculum development units in Commonwealth developing countries with some of the “books about books” and other items of published material and equipment they need to operate more effectively, and seek to obtain sufficient funds from member governments to enable the scheme to become effective.
- (g) Explore the possibility of getting member countries to provide the funds necessary to support those aspects of the Commonwealth Book Development Programme that are not catered for by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation or the proposal in Recommendation 7f above.

Education Media

8. The Commonwealth Secretariat should:

- (a) Investigate the problems of producing low-cost teaching materials as a pilot project for the proposed Programme of Applied Studies in Education.
- (b) Consider holding workshops to stimulate training in the production of low-cost teaching material.

9. The Conference endorses the recommendations of the Commonwealth Educational Broadcasting Conference and the Commonwealth Conference on Materials for Learning and Teaching, and draws particular attention to those listed in the paragraphs 89 and 90 of the Report of the Meeting of Officials.

Curriculum and Examinations

10. The Commonwealth Secretariat should:

- (a) Offer assistance in the training of curriculum personnel, facilitate the exchange of curriculum materials between member countries, and provide opportunities for curriculum planners to meet and discuss common problems.
- (b) Provide assistance in the form of consultants and advisers for members governments wishing to review their examination systems.

Applied Studies in Education

11. An information paper on recent curriculum reforms attempted in secondary schools in various member countries should be produced for consideration at the next Commonwealth Education Conference, and be distributed at least six months before that Conference.

Administration and Supervision

12. The Commonwealth Secretariat should continue to organize regional training courses for high-level administrators and trainers in the field of educational administration and supervision.

13. Governments should consider making provision in their normal budgets for training personnel in educational administration, and the Commonwealth Secretariat should consider providing consultants to help to run these courses.

Non-Formal Education

14. The Commonwealth Secretariat should:

- (a) carry out surveys, case studies and pilot projects in the field of non-formal education;
- (b) assist in the exchange of information concerning programmes designed to identify solutions to common problems in non-formal education and rural development.

Teacher Education

15. The Commonwealth Secretariat should:

- (a) Commission a study of alternative methods of training teachers, disseminate information on these methods, and be prepared to offer assistance in implementing them.
- (b) Organize regional workshops that aim to assist member governments in tackling problems and sharing ideas associated with teacher education, and assist them to strengthen their teachers' support services.

Education About the Commonwealth

16. The Commonwealth Secretariat should:

- (a) Continue to publish information about the Commonwealth, and make it more widely available for educational purposes.
- (b) Consider providing a consultant and possibly other resources for appropriate workshops, such as those held by the African Social Studies Programme, in order to prepare educational materials to be used in teaching about the Commonwealth.
- (c) Give some support to the preparation of a report on questions set on Commonwealth topics by some of the examining boards in Britain, and circulate the report so that it can serve as a basis for similar studies.
- (d) Examine the feasibility of establishing a multilateral Commonwealth teacher exchange scheme.
- (e) Collect and disseminate information on educational activities about the Commonwealth that are suitable for use by schools.

17. Ministries of Education should specifically assign the responsibility:
- (a) for education about the Commonwealth;
 - (b) where appropriate and possible, for ensuring that channels of communication are opened for the exchange of information about the Commonwealth for educational purposes.

Research and Publications

18. The Commonwealth Secretariat should:
- (a) Continue its commissioned research programme.
 - (b) Continue its series of publications on important aspects of education, including a bulletin to publicize educational problems and their solutions.
 - (c) Raise the print run of these publications and distribute them more widely to interested institutions, organizations, and individuals.

Universal Primary Education

19. It is recommended that:
- (a) The Secretariat, in consultation with the governments concerned, should assemble information on the steps being taken to implement programmes of universal primary education in member countries, and make this information available to other countries.
 - (b) The Secretariat be asked to consider arranging for a series of meetings on universal primary education, beginning with the countries that are farthest from achieving it.

Links with Other Organizations

20. The Education Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat should maintain and strengthen its links with international, regional and national organizations that are working in the fields of education and development so that it can continue to avoid duplicating work being undertaken elsewhere.
21. In addition to the occasional visits currently undertaken by the Secretariat staff, individual officers with special responsibilities for particular regions should be enabled to pay regular visits to those regions to obtain first-hand information on developments in education.

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

22. In order to enable the C.F.T.C. to increase its support for education and training activities of benefit to developing countries, including the implementation of many of the recommendations made by this Conference, it is recommended that governments should consider the possibility of increasing the resources of the Fund.

Priorities

23. Because priorities for Commonwealth co-operation differ from region to region and depend on the level of funding available, the order in which the foregoing recommendations are put into action should be determined by the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee.