
FOREWORD

An essential element of research management is communication, whether in science and technology or any other field of human endeavour. Transfer of information cannot be separated from research and development, and all those concerned with scientific activities must be involved in dissemination of knowledge to the same extent and with the same attitude as they have towards research and development itself. Research objectives are not only to find solutions to problems but also to communicate the results obtained to those who can benefit from their utilization, and to others who are responsible for ensuring that the national efforts in science and technology are appropriate, relevant and effective. The scientists must report to a public and its representatives who will judge whether scientific pursuit is worth the money spent on it and also whether the quality of man's life will be adversely affected by activities and innovations arising from such research.

Communication is not, however, a one-way system with one active communicator and a passive receptor. It is the whole process of the presentation, transmission and reception of information which constitutes the fundamental means by which the development and utilization of science and technology can take place.

The Commonwealth Science Council has recognized the imperative to promote cooperative activities directly relevant to the social, economic and environmental problems of its members, which could concurrently and integratively, assist in building up the national capabilities in science and technology, so vital for self-reliance.

One of the first of the urgent tasks tackled by the Council has been endeavours to improve managerial skills in scientific research. Too often we are confronted with the situation of highly-qualified researchers placed in positions demanding a wealth of knowledge and experience of leadership of people and materials without being adequately prepared for this role. An essential attribute of science leaders is the ability to communicate effectively whether it be with other scientists, with decision-makers in government, with the ultimate users of research findings, or with the public at large. Frequently, the sad situation is that research findings lie buried in files while the problems, for which research had supplied solutions, are still with us.

It was the main purpose of the Caribbean Workshop on Science Commission to correct this situation

1. to enable scientists to consider and compare techniques for assembling and using the available scientific information;
2. to participate in techniques for disseminating available scientific information to specialists, to administrators and to the general public; and
3. to encourage participants to organize similar workshops with the aim of developing science information systems within their respective countries, and to enable them to identify the kind of resource people for such an activity.

This workshop, organized and sponsored jointly by the Commonwealth Science Council, the Commonwealth Fund Technical Corporation and the National Science Research Council of Guyana, was held at the Cyril Potter College of Education, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, through the courtesy of the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, and the Principal of the College, April 12 - 20, 1977. It was the second such workshop organized under the auspices of the Commonwealth Science Council, the first for the African region being held in Arusha, Tanzania in April 1976.

The Caribbean Workshop was organized into different types of sessions, incorporating various meeting and learning techniques: seminars; lectures; formal presentation of background papers followed by discussion; case-study exercises; role-playing in simulated situation and practical demonstrations. The evaluation of the workshop at the final session by participants showed that the variety was appreciated, even though some forms would have been more suitable for a smaller number of participants. The workshop report and the resource material and papers presented are now published for a wider readership, as these could be useful material for similar workshops organized at a regional or national level.

The success of the workshop was to a large measure due to the excellent planning and organization by the coordinating committee and its various sub-committees, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Victor Forsythe, who acted as workshop Director. We were privileged to have had many resource personnel, from Guyana, Canada, Britain and Kenya, who gave so freely of their time and knowledge. The Cyril Potter College of Education was an excellent venue and the Principal and staff met our needs fully and cheerfully. The Honourable Minister of Education, Cde Shirley Field-Ridley, extended us the privilege of declaring the Workshop open and was active in her support throughout for which we are very grateful. To all who contributed to the success of the workshop, including the participants from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cyprus, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, we wish to extend our warmest thanks.

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and

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