

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Pacific Regional Seminar/Workshop on "Education and the Community: Partnership for Development" was organized in the Cook Islands by the Commonwealth Secretariat, in response to the growing concern, not only in the Pacific Region, but throughout the world, about the way in which education programmes can be tied more closely to the goals of national development. It was the first time that the relationship between education and community development had been given detailed examination at a Commonwealth meeting.

Particular attention at the meeting was given to community participation in education, ways of adapting education in response to present and future needs, out-of-school education and changes in agriculture and industry to absorb school leavers. As an integral part of the programme of the meeting, participants from each country designed one or two projects related to the themes discussed, so that on return home some of the principles and ideas which arose could be put into practice.

The Seminar/Workshop was a co-operative venture between the Education Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Youth Programme. Funds for fares and other expenses were provided by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and the Commonwealth Youth Programme. It was the first time that such a joint project had been undertaken.

Delegates at the Seminar/Workshop came from twelve Commonwealth countries in the Pacific region: the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Gilbert Islands, the New Hebrides, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau Island, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. In addition, one participant came from American Samoa, as a guest of the South Pacific Commission. The South Pacific Commission and the University of the South Pacific were also represented.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is grateful to the Government of the Cook Islands, and in particular to the Ministry of Health and Education, for hosting the meeting. Special thanks are due to the Chairman, Mr. Ngereteina Puna, who steered the sessions so ably, Mr. Tere Tangaroa, the Assistant Seminar Director, and to our consultants and the observers who also contributed effectively to the work of the Seminar.