

SEMINAR/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations that follow are directed at governments, regional organizations and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Others are included in the body of the report. It is realized that some of the recommendations are already being carried out by some governments and international organizations but it is hoped that those which are not yet doing so will consider implementing them. Some of the recommendations apply to national governments and others to international organizations.

Recommendations to Governments

1. Governments should review national education systems, if necessary with assistance from international and regional bodies, to ensure that the planning, implementation and operation of their education programmes are integrated with local and national development goals. Special attention should be given to the need to educate young people to become active members of the community while also preparing them to live full and satisfying lives in a changing world.
2. In order to secure and strengthen both community participation in education, and school participation in community programmes, governments should formulate, and disseminate widely, national education policies and plans. Maximum use should be made of all possible community structures, and all available media, including those which might be developed through satellite technology.
3. Efforts to make curricula more relevant to national goals should be co-ordinated and closely integrated with national plans for social and economic development, especially in the field of rural development and community service programmes.
4. Governments should review how community service programmes among young people, such as national youth service schemes, vacation work forces, and village youth groups, can contribute to the achievement of national goals, and where appropriate, should support and encourage the development of such programmes, especially those which aim at 'self help'.
5. Governments should draw the attention of all departments and ministries to ways in which community service programmes for young people could contribute to their work and the achievement of their goals.
6. Given the many agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, working at local and national levels in the field of education, governments should establish a national-level co-ordinating machinery in order to avoid unnecessary duplication or overlap of projects and to ensure effective use of available resources.
7. Governments should find ways of improving information exchange both within and between themselves and other agencies:

- (a) By devising systems to ensure that information they receive from other bodies is transmitted to persons who might need or use it at school as well as national level.
 - (b) By compiling and distributing basic mailing lists to such agencies as the Commonwealth Secretariat and international organizations, so that appropriate publications can be sent direct to interested and concerned persons.
8. Each government represented at the seminar is requested to consider how the project proposals developed at the meeting can be implemented to support or strengthen its own efforts to bring about educational change.
9. Governments should review the resources available from regional Commonwealth and international agencies in support of the above recommendations.

Recommendations to the Commonwealth Secretariat and other Regional Organizations

10. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the South Pacific Commission should work more closely together to extend and improve existing information exchange services in the region, especially in relation to education, youth programmes and community development. In line with this a positive effort should be made to gather and disseminate information in a useful format, possibly by a specific assignment to set up and run a clearing house operation.
11. There is a special need for a programme to arrange attachments for programme personnel to work for three to four months in a relevant programme in another country, particularly within the region, in order to gain insights into practical aspects of programmes.
12. As far as possible, inter-governmental agencies should give higher priority to providing funds for programme development and to training, and lower priority to provision of experts.
13. Commonwealth, regional and international agencies should be in constant consultation and, as far as possible, should avoid unnecessary duplication.
14. The South Pacific Commission should consider a follow-up seminar in two to three years time, when progress made in implementing the project proposals could be examined.
15. The Commonwealth Secretariat should step up work on its programme of Education about the Commonwealth, and disseminate it to Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries in the region.