

Preface to New Edition

In November 1985 a group of educators, administrators, academics and agency officials from sixteen countries met in Mauritius. They came from a wide scatter of countries: from the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, from West and Southern Africa, from the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific, and from the States of Jersey. They were united in their interest, expertise and commitment to the educational development of the smaller countries of the Commonwealth.

The report of their deliberations, *Educational Development: The Small States of the Commonwealth* (Commonwealth Secretariat 1986) records the main outcomes of the Mauritius meeting; a meeting which recommended a programme of activities for the Secretariat on the challenges which smallness of scale sets national education systems. This programme received endorsement from the Tenth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Nairobi, Kenya (July 1987).

One early outcome of the programme was this book, edited by Kazim Bacchus and Colin Brock. Based on specially commissioned papers it brings together the knowledge, perceptions and experience of a group of individuals who rarely get the opportunity to meet and learn from one another despite the strong similarities in their countries' educational objectives, systems and challenges. In this sense the book represents a central tenet of the Secretariat's work; the belief that the small states of the Commonwealth have much to gain from one another.

This volume precedes a series of more technical studies on some of the issues which are identified by the book's authors. These include the supply, training and professional support of educational personnel in archipelago countries; training the multipurpose administrator and post-secondary policy options in small states.

The contributions are those of the individuals concerned and do not necessarily represent the views of their governments,

organisations, agencies or the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Since its publication in 1987 *The Challenge of Scale* has been in steady demand throughout the Commonwealth. It is quoted as a standard work in the growing volume of work which has education in small states as its focus. In institutions such as the University of the South Pacific it is being used as a reader for education students. Whilst the material here was written in 1987/88 the central theme of the book remains unaffected: national smallness of scale sets distinctive challenges for educational development. The text therefore remains the same, except for minor editorial changes. The map and the statistical data in Appendix A have been updated.

Education Programme

Human Resource Development Group

Commonwealth Secretariat

1993