

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan was drawn up at the First Commonwealth Education Conference held at Oxford in 1959. The general basis of the Plan is that those Commonwealth governments which are able to do so should institute Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to be held by men and women from other Commonwealth countries at universities and other institutions of higher learning in the awarding country. The progress and development of the scheme have been reviewed at successive Commonwealth Education Conferences at New Delhi in 1962, Ottawa in 1964, Lagos in 1968, Canberra in 1971, Kingston in 1974 and Accra in 1977. For this purpose reports on the CSFP are presented to each Conference.

The usual practice so far has been to publish annual reports of the operation of the Plan for the preceding year and to present these to each Conference together with any mandated reviews and reports. They were numbered sequentially and the last was the Sixteenth Annual Report published in 1977. This was prepared in time for the Seventh Commonwealth Education Conference in Ghana in 1977.

One of the recommendations from that Conference in regard to the CSFP was that the "Association of Commonwealth Universities should continue to obtain annually from Commonwealth Scholarship Agencies basic data and information about each country's operation of the Plan" and that "in future reports on the CSFP should be published triennially in time for successive Commonwealth Conferences".

Rather than publish three separate annual reports this Seventeenth Report presents the operation of the Plan in all participating countries during the period 1 April 1976 to 31 March 1979. It is based on three annual reports prepared by the Association of Commonwealth Universities. These have been edited by the Commonwealth Secretariat for submission to the Conference in a single volume. To maintain continuity, however, the format of earlier reports has been substantially retained avoiding obvious repetitions. If a sufficient number of reports from Commonwealth Scholarship Agencies come in for the year ending 31 March 1980, a further report covering that year would be prepared in time for the Conference.

Like earlier reports, this too has been compiled from information provided by the Commonwealth Scholarship Agencies to the Association of Commonwealth Universities. It consists of statements submitted annually commenting on the working of the Plan in their respective countries together with appendices giving details and statistics relating to certain aspects of the Plan, placed immediately after the report of that particular year. The list of emoluments for Scholars and Fellows refers only to the last year of the report. This list has been revised subsequently. The list of Scholarship Agencies has however been brought up to date.

A set of definitions for the awarding procedure for use in reports and statistics was set out in the First Annual Report and was confirmed by the New Delhi, Ottawa and Lagos Conferences. Two definitions were added in the Third Annual Report to the original list and a few verbal changes have also been made. These definitions continue in use. They are:

institution of awards: when a country has by a government decision made financial provisions etc. for Scholarships or Fellowships under the Plan for study by citizens of other Commonwealth countries in its own country it is said to have instituted awards;

awarding country: a country which has instituted awards is known as an awarding country;

submission of nominations: when a country has forwarded a short list of recommended candidates from its own country for final consideration in an awarding country it is said to have nominated them;

nominating country: any country invited to submit nominations;

award offered: is an award which has actually been offered by the awarding country to a specific candidate nominated by another country. This phrase does not apply to the invitation to another country by an awarding country to submit nominations;

award accepted: is an award which has been accepted by the candidate to whom it was offered, whether yet taken up or not;

award taken up: is an award which has been utilized to the extent that the Scholar has actually commenced study under the Plan in the awarding country;

awards made available: when an awarding country has instituted a fixed number of awards it makes a proportion of them available each year for new selections;

set of awards: when an awarding country makes available a group of awards tenable from a date common to the group as a whole the awards are known as a set of awards and may be referred to by the name of the awarding country and the calendar year in which they are tenable. Thus awards tenable in Nigeria from September 1976 are referred to as Nigeria 1976, and awards tenable in Australia from March 1977 are referred to as Australia 1977.