

FOREWORD

Decision-makers in Commonwealth countries are faced with difficult policy choices in the context of a rapidly changing world economic environment. In order to assist Commonwealth developing countries in building key skills in macro-economic management, the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA), organised special training programmes aimed at senior Government officials from economic and planning departments. So far some 150 participants from 35 Commonwealth developing countries have benefitted from these programmes.

Case studies on macro-economic management and planning in various Commonwealth countries were prepared as teaching materials for these training programmes and are offered in this volume as a useful aid for others. They have been successfully tested in more than 4 international programmes at the IIMA, and they provide plenty of data and relevant information to generate meaningful debates and discussions among practising senior level government officials.

The cases focus on various aspects of reforms related to macro-economic policies, management and planning in a few selected Commonwealth countries. The cases demonstrate the extent of similarities in magnitude, nature, causes and intensity of economic problems faced by Commonwealth developing countries. The emphasis, however, has been more on the planning processes than on technical aspects of economic planning. The cases also highlight the issue of decentralisation, the environment and ecological concerns. We hope this publication will be useful to both training organizations and to the policy makers and planners from Commonwealth countries.

I am most grateful to Professors Bakul H. Dholakia and Ravindra H. Dholakia for their excellent efforts in preparing these cases. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director and the whole Economic Management Programme faculty of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad for their invaluable cooperation and contribution.

Mohan Kaul
Director
Management & Training Services Division
Commonwealth Secretariat
London.

January 28, 1994