

## *Preface*

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In April 1992, a group of university academics and administrators from all parts of the Commonwealth met in Singapore to consider how best to promote the flow of students into the universities of developing countries from other Commonwealth universities, against the grain of a long history of outward movement. It was a notably well-prepared meeting, with papers specially commissioned from ten countries to describe and analyse the current situation and the obstacles to improvement. The meeting was charged with the task of proposing ways of overcoming those obstacles.

In this book, Professor Lalage Bown has spun together the results of that meeting, including the background documentation, into a rich and informative narrative. It provides, from many different national perspectives, a thorough analysis of the policy issues and preoccupations which concern governments and universities alike; it gets behind the rhetoric into the facts. The data it assembles, and its challenging case studies of particular countries and universities, are important references for anyone working in the field of international education in Commonwealth countries and elsewhere.

But the book is more than a collection of information and opinions: it is a call for action, and specifically for leadership from the Commonwealth, which stands for so many of the values which the writers uphold. For the most part that leadership must come from within institutions and governments, and this volume contains many examples of where it could be most effective.

The Commonwealth Secretariat recognises that it too has a catalytic role to play, to the extent that its resources permit. One Secretariat

response is described in Appendix 2 of this book, which details how the Secretariat has taken the lead in assembling the Commonwealth Universities Study Abroad Consortium comprising twenty-eight institutions from all parts of the Commonwealth. In August 1993 these universities committed themselves formally to take action to provide opportunities for their students to study in other universities in the developing world as a part of their course, and to give full academic credit for this.

Alongside co-operative endeavours like the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and the Commonwealth of Learning, this initiative, and the student movements which will flow from it, will demonstrate that the countries of the Commonwealth continue to take a lead in the internationalisation of education from which they all, both industrialised and developing, will gain.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Emeka Anyaoku'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'E' being particularly large and stylized.

Emeka Anyaoku  
Commonwealth Secretary-General