

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This volume contains four separate items dealing with "Resources for Education and their Cost-Effective Use". Originally, they were contributions to the Ninth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers where the subject was a major item on the agenda. They have been put together in this form to meet a variety of needs including those of research workers in the field of the economics of education and of education officials wishing to make cross-country comparisons of problems and solutions in the mid 1980s.

The publication begins with an overview of the individual country papers prepared for the Conference by Australia, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Botswana, Britain, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, The Gambia, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, The Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, The Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, and Zambia. For many readers this overview may be a sufficient indication of the ways in which Commonwealth countries are responding to economic constraints. Some, however, may wish to refer to the papers in full, and the Education Programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat will endeavour to meet requests for copies of individual country papers.

The next two sections of the publication consist of the working papers on this agenda item which were commissioned for the Conference. The title of the paper by Professor P R C Williams is "Locating untapped resources for education"; that by Professor Sanya Onabamiro is "Possibilities for reducing costs without sacrificing the quality of education".

During the Conference two working groups were formed to consider the subject, one concentrating on "the cost-effective use of resources" and the other on "additional resources for education". Their reports, which were adopted by the Conference as a whole*, are reprinted here and make up the final pages of this volume.

*The Report of the Ninth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers is available from Commonwealth Secretariat Publications; price £2 post free by surface mail.