

Foreword

The Commonwealth has a strong record and tradition of co-operation in education, encompassing articulation of values, exchange of ideas and direct learning from each other. This book is a reminder of that record and tradition and offers a refreshing kaleidoscope of Commonwealth educational action.

In their fourteenth triennial conference held in Canada in 2000, Commonwealth Ministers expressed the view that education:

... contributes to a non-exploitative and non-violent society that will facilitate expansion of human capabilities and enhancement of competitiveness in a knowledge-based global economy. Education empowers the poor, safeguards the vulnerable, promotes economic growth and social justice, promotes the values of democracy, human rights, citizenship, good governance, tolerance and pluralism, and provides moral and spiritual guidance.

These are far-reaching ideals, but Commonwealth members have committed themselves to them. The record illustrated in this book shows how over the years the Commonwealth as an organisation has on behalf of member countries worked steadily towards them.

We are grateful to those who have contributed to this publication and hope that readers will find it useful.

Don McKinnon
Commonwealth Secretary-General