

FOREWORD

The chapters which comprise this publication are based on a set of the papers, commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat in 1982 on various aspects of science, mathematics, technical and vocational education. Their underlying theme is the interrelationship between science, mathematics and technology education as a base for general education for all students at school level. So often in the past and, indeed, at present, the teaching of science, mathematics and technical/vocational subjects has been largely a preparation for the next stage of formal education. Such teaching has ignored the needs of the majority of children whose school education should prepare them for the world of work and for life in general. Owing to the limitations of educational systems in so many countries, little progress has been made towards adapting general school curricula and teaching styles to the needs of the majority of school children.

The chapters attempt to suggest possible strategies, based on experience in a number of Commonwealth countries, for achieving the interrelation of science, mathematics and technical and vocational subjects. We would welcome feedback on them from readers.

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Michael Sinclair
Acting Director
Education Programme
Human Resource Development Group

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