

Preface

The Commonwealth Secretariat published its first booklet on low-cost science teaching equipment in 1975. Since then it has produced other publications on various aspects of the subject including reports of regional workshops which we have held in various parts of the Commonwealth on the methodologies of low-cost equipment production.

The present publication derives from these workshops and is in response to numerous requests from member countries. Like its precursor, it highlights centres in many parts of the world where school science equipment is being produced at low cost. Additionally, it seeks to provide insights into the training required for science equipment production and offers a medium for communication between those engaged in this field.

Once again we are indebted to our consultant, Norman K. Lowe, whose efforts in the field of science teaching equipment are internationally acclaimed and who was co-author of the first publication. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the heads of the various centres who so readily cooperated with us in our information gathering exercise. We acknowledge the kind assistance of the British Council for permission to include the information from its recent publication "Directory of Educational Equipment Production Centres" in section two of the present handbook.

This revised edition is offered to all those who have had to grapple with the thorny problem of providing school science equipment at low-cost in order to teach science effectively and to assist the development of a truly scientific attitude in those who study science. In this way, we hope science education will also make its contribution to the national development efforts of member countries.

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