

Introduction

In 1975 the Commonwealth Secretariat published their first booklet on the topic of low-cost equipment. The original publication focused attention on many of the problems related to the national development of school science equipment and the purpose of the book was stated in the following paragraph:

'It is a great waste if people with similar problems and with usable solutions do not communicate with one another. The needs of the many schools struggling to teach science with inadequate apparatus are enormous - not only in the volume of the items required but also in the suitability of design. A sharing of ideas and a knowledge of how others are coping with similar problems can bring about considerable economies of time, effort and money.'

This second review of developments has the same objectives as the first, and attempts to provide a medium for communication which may be of assistance to those already in the field of local production of apparatus, and also for those who are 'standing on the sidelines and not sure which way to jump.'

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