

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This volume contains five separate items dealing with "Education and Youth Unemployment". Originally, they were contributions to the Ninth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (9CCEM) held in Nicosia in July 1984, where the subject was one of the three major items on the agenda. They have been put together in this form to meet a variety of needs including those of researchers and workers in the field of youth unemployment and the school-to-work transition, and of education officials wishing to make cross-country comparisons of problems and solutions in the mid-1980s.

The publication begins with a detailed overview of all the 35 country papers prepared for the Conference by Australia, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Botswana, Britain, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, The Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This overview, prepared after the Conference was held, may for many readers be a sufficient indication of the ways in which Commonwealth countries are responding to the increasingly complex challenges to education posed by worsening unemployment rates among young people. 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 them, while scarce supplies last. Requests should be addressed to the Director, Education Programme, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX.

The second section of the publication consists of the working paper on this agenda item which was commissioned for the Conference. Entitled "Education and Youth Unemployment: Some Propositions" it was prepared by Dr Kenneth King, Executive Director of the Centre of African Studies and Reader in Education at Edinburgh University.

Next, we reproduce the lead speech entitled "Education and Youth Affairs", delivered at the Conference by Emeritus Professor Peter Karmel, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University.

During the Conference two working groups were formed to consider the subject. One was concerned with "Policy and Organisational Links Between Education and Employment" and the other with "The Contribution of Education Systems (Formal and Non-Formal) in Improving Young People's Access to Work". 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.