



LIMITED
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Second Executive Committee Meeting of the
Caribbean Council for Science and Technology



MINUTES OF SECOND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST)
GUYANA
9 MARCH 1982



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

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MINUTES OF SECOND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST)

GUYANA

9 MARCH 1982

Present:

Dr. Dennis Irvine - Chairman (Guyana)
Ms. Merline Smith - Treasurer (Jamaica)
Dr. James de Vere Pitt - Member (Grenada)
Dr. John Spence - ECLA/CCST Secretariat

In Attendance.

Dr. Pat Monroe - Secretary-General (NSRC)

1. Before the meeting commenced Cde. Minister Ranjit Chandisingh, Minister of Education welcomed the Committee members (Annex I).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
(AGENDA ITEM 2)

2. The Agenda was then approved.

WORK PROGRAMME
(AGENDA ITEM 3)

3. Dr. Spence reported that during the last three months he had been Officer-in-Charge of the Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean. Nevertheless, the following activities had been pursued on behalf of CCST:

(i) Survey of National Science and Technology Capabilities

An agreed format for questionnaires had been prepared and an interview manual rewritten to agree with the questionnaire. He had also obtained permission from Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (IFSTD) to utilise some residual funds to prepare background documents and forms which would be circulated to relevant countries. An offer from UNESCO to provide assistance had also been received.

(ii) Science and Technology Magazine

Estimates for printing the magazine had been obtained. The printing costs were high, but might be defrayed through regional advertisements and through the sale of a limited number of copies. There was also the need to distribute first as large a number as possible of the first issue. The Committee recommended that the publishers should be encouraged to assume responsibility for publication of the magazine and that the CCST should be concerned mainly with editorial policy.

(iii) Preparation of Audio-visual Material

It was agreed that a Consultant be appointed via an ECLA mechanism to do baseline work by co-ordinating and collating the documentary material which was either already available or which was being produced by the national film bodies. Jamaica promised to investigate the possibility of utilising assistance from ECLA/CCST in the preparation of a national film which would in turn be made available to CCST member countries.

(iv) Other Projects

(a) Food Technology

A Consultant from Mexico would shortly be assigned to ECLA (Trinidad) for one week and his services would be used to assist in preparation of a project document.

(b) Food - Energy Nexus

The Chairman informed the Meeting that United Nations University was undertaking two studies in Brazil and India and might be willing to include a smaller Caribbean territory in the study if a project could be submitted in time.

(c) Conservation of Germ Protoplasm

A funding agency has been approached for assistance but no reply had been received as yet.

(v) Committee/Working Groups

Dr. Spence informed the meeting that, to date, only two responses to his request for nominations had been received. He explained that one reason for the lack of response might have been the routing of the requests for nomination. The meeting recommended an alternative strategy which was to send letters not only to member Governments but to members of Council as well.

BUDGET
(AGENDA ITEM 3)

4. During the general discussion on this item, the hope was expressed that UNESCO might be able to help in providing some field assistance to CCST in the project on Assessment of Science and Technology Capabilities, and the Chairman was mandated to pursue further dialogue with the Assistant Director General during his visit to UNESCO headquarters in May. It was also recommended that where possible some member countries could allocate a portion (up to US\$2,000) of their national contribution to CCST for the purpose of continuing with the survey programme.

The budget (Annex II) was then formally approved with the stipulation that the overhead charge should be corrected to read 13% and should be used solely by ECLA (Port-of-Spain).

It was also recommended that copies of the Budget should be sent to the Governments and the Representatives of Member Territories for their information and relevant action as was necessary.

The Chairman then commented on the need to look further afield for alternate sources of funding. He informed the meeting that a U.N. pledging conference for a permanent fund for Science and Technology is shortly to be held and therefore firm project proposals should be prepared by CCST, with the approval of member Governments, for submission. He promised to forward a copy of the guidelines for projects to Dr. Spence as well as the list of projects that were being supported by the Fund.

Dr. Spence informed the Meeting about his correspondence with the authorities at SAREC who had requested more information on the

disbursement of funds by ECLA/CCST. He had replied submitting the relevant information and the Chairman was requested to pursue the matter further during his attendance at the next IFS Committee Meeting.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CAPABILITY (Annex III)
(AGENDA ITEM 4)

5. With regards to recommendation:
- (1) The Chairman and Dr. Monroe were asked to submit guidelines of booklet;
 - (2) The Chairman was asked to write to the Director of the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology;
 - (3) The Secretary had already reported to the Sixth Session of the CDCC.

VENUE, DATE AND AGENDA OF SECOND
PLENARY SESSION OF CCST
(AGENDA ITEM 5)

6. Venue: Kingston, Jamaica; Chairman to agree on participation.
Date: Preferably the week of 7-14 June 1982.

Provisional Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Matters Arising from Minutes of First Plenary Session of CCST
3. Report of Executive Meeting
4. Review of Work of CCST
5. Budget
6. Date and Venue of Third Plenary Meeting
7. Election of Officers

DATE AND VENUE OF
THIRD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
(AGENDA ITEM 6)

7. The Third Executive Committee Meeting would be held on the day prior to the opening of the Second Plenary Session in Kingston, Jamaica.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(AGENDA ITEM 7)

8. (i) Dr. Spence informed the Committee that:
- (a) Cuba has named their representatives to CCST;
 - (b) He had received an invitation to attend the regional seminar of Commonwealth Association of Science and Mathematics Educators (CASME) which is to be held in Barbados, 19-23 April 1982.
- (ii) The Chairman informed the Committee that:
- (a) The Inter-Governmental Committee of UNCSTD had formally established Funding Agency on 1 January 1982;
 - (b) Member Governments should be asked to give urgent consideration to the legal status of CCST within their respected territories;
 - (c) He is now a member of a UNESCO Consultative Group on Science and Technology policies and their implications for the Third Development Decade, and had been asked to prepare something about CCST for inclusion in the study;
 - (d) The United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development was willing to sponsor a Workshop in the Caribbean on new technologies along the lines of the one to be held in Africa. With the agreement of members he would follow up the matter.
- (iii) The Committee was informed that Dr. Pat Hamilton was soon to be appointed Director, Science Research Council (Jamaica).
- (iv) Dr. Spence, on behalf of all Members, thanked the Chairman for his expeditious handling of the Agenda items.

The Meeting closed at 11.45 hours.

WELCOMING REMARKS -
MINISTER OF EDUCATION - GUYANA; CHAIRMAN - CCST

In his welcoming remarks, The Minister stressed the opportunities which were presently available to scientists and technologists in their search for and identification of indigenous material which could be utilised to maintain national independence and dignity despite the financial constraints facing the region. He also emphasized the need to avoid both duplication of effort as well as the proliferation of agencies and organizations which must of necessity draw from the same human and financial reservoirs. He further expressed the hope that one of the main concerns of the Committee would be the rationalisation of regional science and technology efforts since all member countries were anxious about their financial commitments especially with reference to foreign exchange. Expectations must therefore always be related to results. In Guyana's case, he said that the Government was now looking to its limited but talented scientific and technological community for guidance in such projects as:-

- (a) utilisation of kaolin to produce ceramics and table-ware; and
- (b) production of fertilisers.

He expressed full support for the rationale in establishing the CCST as stated by the Chairman in his report on priorities in Science and Technology in the Caribbean. He concluded by stressing the need for scientists to keep abreast with some of the latest decisive and pivotal developments in such fields as Microprocessors and Bioengineering.

The Chairman echoed the suggestions and concerns of the Cde. Minister and promised the full co-operation of CCST to ensure that the regional science and technology programme was fully integrated. He also asked for the full-co-operation of member Governments in CCST's Work Programme and indicated the need for a just balance between the long term considerations and short term realities.

CCST INCOME AND BUDGET, 1982

INCOME (Payments for 1981 and 1982):

<u>MDC's</u>	<u>US Dollars</u>	<u>LDC's</u>	<u>US Dollars</u>
Cuba	12,000	Dominica	3,000
Guyana	12,000	Grenada	3,000
Jamaica	12,000	St. Lucia	3,000
Suriname	12,000	St. Vincent	3,000
Trinidad + Tobago	12,000		
	<u>60,000</u>		<u>12,000</u>

TOTAL: US\$72,000

BUDGET (1982 in US Dollars):

Council Meetings

Travel and Per diem	9,000
Documentation, secretarial and other services	1,000
Translation and interpre- tation	<u>5,000</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>15,000</u>

Executive Committee Meetings

Travel and Per diem	7,000
Documentation, secretarial and other services	<u>1,000</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>8,000</u>

Workshops

Travel and Per diem	9,000
Documentation, secretarial and other services	1,000
Translation and interpre- tation	<u>5,000</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>15,000</u>

Work Programme

Survey of National Science and
Technology Capabilities 16,000

Science and Technology Magazine 8,000

TOTAL 24,000

Miscellaneous 1,158

SUB-TOTAL 63,158

UN Overhead Charge (14%) 8,842

GRAND TOTAL 72,000

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was agreed to make the following recommendations:

- (1) To the CCST - that a booklet be prepared informing governments on the importance to national development plans of data, such as would be collected in the Survey on Science and Technology Capabilities.
- (2) To the various agencies of the United Nations System - that every effort be made to support the initiatives of the CCST and in particular the project on Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities.
- (3) To CCST/CDCC Secretariat - that a report on the Workshop be presented to CDCC VI requesting member governments to support the Survey to be carried out on Science and Technology Capabilities, and urging that inputs be made into the higher Councils of the United Nations System to ensure adequate funding for Science and Technology, in which context the following resolution was passed:

THE WORKSHOP

TAKING NOTE WITH SATISFACTION of the funding by the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNIFSTD) of a number of important science and technology projects in the Caribbean region and of the preparatory assistance given by UNIFSTD for the identification and elaboration of a much greater number of priority projects to be financed as soon as additional resources become available,

RECOGNIZING WITH APPRECIATION the support given so far by UNIFSTD to the activities of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology and expressing the hope that such support will continue with increasing financial resources,

RECALLING United Nations General Assembly Resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 which established UNIFSTD as an organ of the General

Assembly, pending the coming into operation of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development,

URGES the member Governments to strive for the establishment of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and, pending the coming into operation of such system, to take necessary steps, through active participation in the on-going discussions in the competent United Nations bodies, in order to assure the continuation of the activities started by UNIFSTD.



