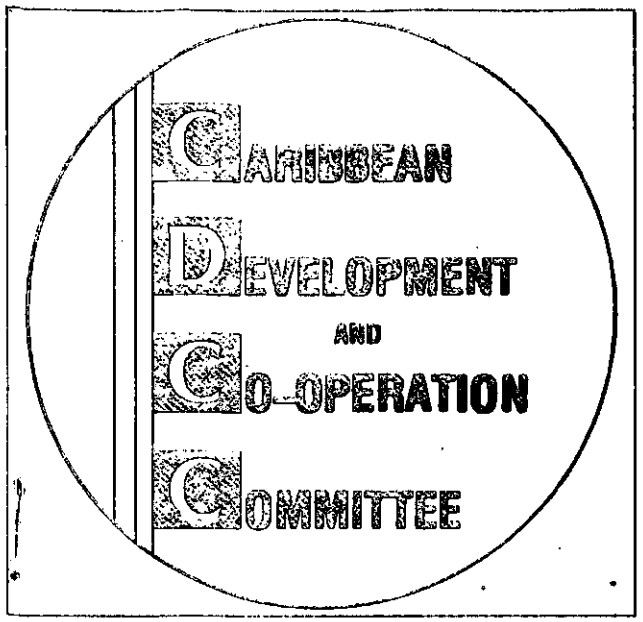

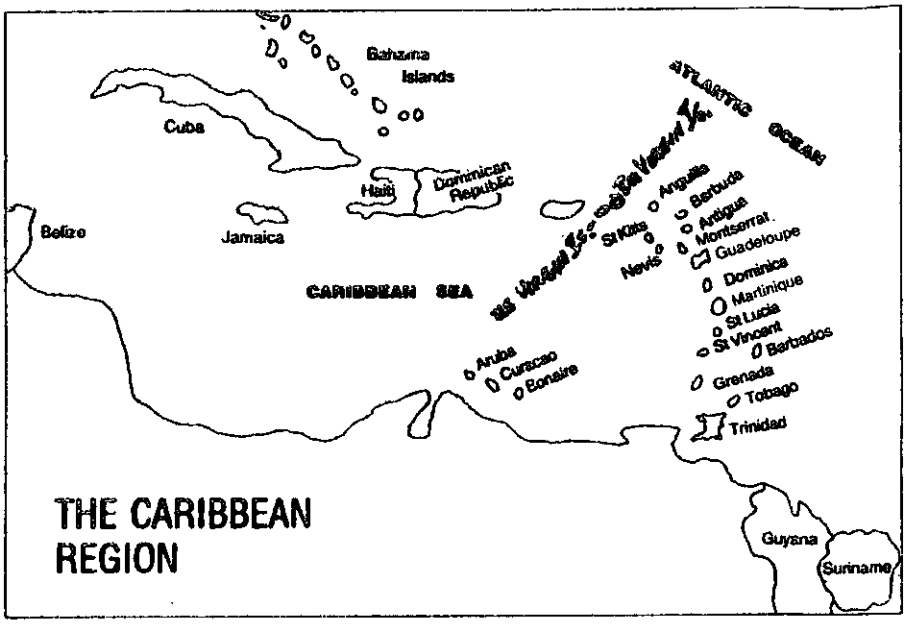

GENERAL

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Fifth Plenary Session
Roseau, Dominica
27-29 November 1985

THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

This Fourth Annual Report describes the activities of the CCST from the Fourth Plenary Session in September 1984 to 1985.

Officers of the Council 1984-1985

The following officers were elected for the year:

Chairman:	Saint Lucia	Mr. Angus Philogene
Vice-Chairman:	Haiti	Mr. Gilbert Duperval
Member:	Guyana	Dr. Ulric Trotz

The above members together with Suriname (Mr. Iwan Kortram - Honorary Treasurer for three years) comprised the Executive Committee.

Membership

During the period under review, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda deposited the Instruments of Ratification of the Statutes of the CCST with the ECLAC Subregional Office for the Caribbean. The United States Virgin Islands and Martinique have both expressed interest in becoming members of the CCST. Relevant information on CCST, including the Statutes, have been sent to these countries. The advice of the Office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations on the question of Martinique's application has been sought and the response is that as Article 4 stands, and even the amendment to allow the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands to become members, Martinique would be excluded since it is not affiliated with the CDCC in anyway.

The membership of the CCST is as follows:

Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti
Belize	Jamaica
Cuba	Saint Lucia
Dominica	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada	Suriname
Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago

Discussions were held with Saint Christopher/Nevis and the Netherlands Antilles with a view to becoming members of the Council.

Funding

The financial status of CCST remains precarious. Only three countries: Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, met their financial obligations for 1984 while for 1985 Belize and the Commonwealth of Dominica have made their payments.

Efforts are continuing to encourage member countries to meet their financial contributions in a manner that would pose least burden, given the present economic situation affecting the region. A proposal put forward was that member countries meet the ticket cost of attending meetings, while the CCST continues to pay per diem. The cost of the ticket(s) can be subtracted from the members' contribution.

The Secretariat is also actively involved in discussions with other agencies and governments with a view to obtaining financial assistance for the implementation of projects.

Secretariat

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) continues to provide secretariat services for the Council. The post of Economic Affairs Officer (Science and Technology) remained vacant until March 1985, when the services of an officer were secured ad interim. Consequently, activities of the Secretariat slowed down during the first half of the period.

Meetings of the Council

The Seventh Executive Committee Meeting of the Council was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on 22 May 1985, under the Chairmanship of Saint Lucia - Mr. Angus Philogene. The report of this meeting is contained in document CDCC/CCST/85/14.

Consultation on CASTALAC II

On behalf of UNESCO, CCST convened a consultation of regional officials involved in science and technology matters in preparation for the Second Conference of Ministers for Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean. This consultation was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 5-7 November 1984.

Publications

1. Minutes of the Fourth Plenary Session of the CCST
2. Minutes of the Sixth Executive Committee Meeting
3. Minutes of the Seventh Executive Committee Meeting
4. CCST Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 1
5. Consultant's Report on Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm of Crop Plants

Meetings at which the Council was represented

1. Ninth Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), Trinidad and Tobago, 29 May-4 June 1985.
2. Seminar/Workshop on Technology Imports and Technology Policy, organized by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, 3-4 April 1985.
3. Seminar/Workshop on Problems of Science Popularization, organized by CARIRI, Trinidad and Tobago, 8-11 October 1985.
4. Workshop/Seminar on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, organized by the Commonwealth Science Council, Saint Christopher, 14-18 October 1985.

Logo for the CCST

The Seventh Executive Committee Meeting instructed the Secretariat that a regional competition among youth should be used for selecting a logo for the CCST and asked the Secretariat to:

(a) devise a mechanism for the selection of the winner;

(b) determine the amount of the prize money to the winner;

(c) provide a description of the requirements for the logo;

(d) draw up the rules for the competition.

The Secretariat has been unable to carry out the Council's instructions on this matter and this activity has been postponed for next work programme.

Proposal for a Working Group on Standards

The Seventh Executive Committee Meeting asked the Secretariat to request information from SELA and CARICOM on what these organizations are doing in the field of Standards. Copies of the documentation from SELA and CARICOM were forwarded to CCST members.

Work Programme

At the Fourth Plenary Session (1984) the Work Programme for 1984-1985 was approved. The following records the action taken by the Secretariat:

- Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities

The Fourth Plenary Session recommended that the existing survey questionnaire formulated in 1981 should be simplified, and established guidelines along which a new one was to be devised. The Secretariat accordingly produced a revised questionnaire and a draft of this was presented to the Executive Committee at its Seventh Meeting. The Executive Committee directed that this revised questionnaire be sent out to member countries and this has been done. A copy of the questionnaire follows.

- CCST Newsletter

At the Fourth Plenary Session the decision was taken to amend the idea of a journal/magazine of the CCST to that of a newsletter. The Secretariat duly produced a format for this newsletter in which the first issue would contain an article on the CCST (its establishment, membership and activities), highlight work on ongoing activities of the Council, contain newsbriefs on science and technology activities within the region as well as have reprints from other sources on topics of interest to the CCST.

The Seventh Executive Committee Meeting reviewed and approved the format produced. Communication was sent to the CCST Council Members asking for information on science and technology activities within their respective countries, but response has been poor. The Secretariat, nevertheless, produced the first volume of the Newsletter and has forwarded copies to the Council Members for distribution within their respective countries. The Secretariat has mailed copies to various local, regional and international organizations as well as to individuals.

While the advent of the first issue has been applauded, the Secretariat continues to encounter great difficulty in obtaining information for articles. Subsequent to the Newsletter's first issue, a letter was sent to all Council Members requesting information on science and technology activities taking place in their country which could be included in the Newsletter, along with a format which the Secretariat is following. This format is as follows:

CCST Newsletter

1. Highlight on work of CCST project(s)
2. Highlight on a member country - Science and Technology activity
3. Topic of interest to CCST
4. Regional newsbriefs
5. Science and Technology personality spot(s)
6. Upcoming regional activity - seminars, workshops, etc.
7. Reprints from other source(s) on topic of interest to CCST

- Preparation and Exchange of Audio-visual Material for Education in Science and Technology

Action since October 1984: The Fourth Plenary Session had requested that the Secretariat complete a film on Food Technology, another on Information/Communication in the Caribbean and a Caribbean Science Film Magazine. Following discussions held with the Project Leader from the Ministry of Education, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as with knowledgeable persons in these fields, a work schedule was made for the production of the first two.

In this regard, institutions that could participate in this project were identified in Jamaica and Saint Lucia. In May, a team comprising the Project Leader, Interviewer/Script Writer and Researcher/Co-ordinator (UN-ECLAC) travelled to these two countries. In Jamaica, the personnel and equipment of the Ministry of Education in that country filmed all material in that country, and a similar procedure was followed in Saint Lucia where a television company did the filming. The team then went to Barbados, where a private company was contracted to do the filming, since at that particular time local units could not accommodate the venture.

The theme of the programme on Food Technology is on the use of local raw materials to offset the high food import bill; stimulate increased agricultural production; facilitate the production of high quality exotic products for export to earn foreign exchange; increase employment and facilitate rural development. The objective of the film on Communication and Information is to highlight the extent of developments in information/communication technology in the metropolitan world on the Caribbean and the impact and implication of these developments for the subregion.

As a pilot exercise, it was successful in achieving its objectives, but not without problems. Liaison services including scheduling of appointments, transportation, etc., assume greater importance because the team worked with crews and equipment with which they were unfamiliar.

It also proved difficult to produce material of a uniformly high standard because of the varying levels of experience of the crews and the different types of equipment used. Nevertheless, the Secretariat is pleased with the assistance rendered by the Focal Points and other persons.

The objective of the Caribbean Science Film Magazine is to provide a twenty-minute programme containing three or four five-minute "articles" on various topics of interest in science and technology. In the development of this project, it is intended that work will be done in collaboration with the various audio-visual units, television stations and national scientific organizations in member countries to identify, research and provide material for programmes.

The Secretariat sent out a questionnaire to member countries soliciting information on video systems in use. This will enable the Secretariat to send films in suitable formats to each country.

The film "Regional Developments in Food Technology" is due to be screened at the Fifth Plenary Session, while it is hoped that "Regional Development in Communication and Information" will be completed in time to be viewed at the same time.

- Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm of Crop Plants

In September 1984, a plant breeder from the University of the West Indies was contracted to:

(a) determine endangered germplasm of crop varieties (food and forest) in Jamaica, Grenada and Guyana;

(b) determine the most suitable conservation method for the particular crop varieties and recommend appropriate mechanism for such conservation;

(c) advise on protocol for exchange of germplasm and on collaboration amongst national and regional institutions.

This report was submitted to the Secretariat in August 1985 and has since been circulated to member countries.

- Implications of Newly Emerging Technologies

At the last Plenary Session, a regional report on the Implications of New Technologies for Caribbean Development was distributed to participants for discussion and comment.

It was intended that a workshop should be held in 1985 by CCST in conjunction with UNESCO and the UN Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) to further elaborate the issues raised. Discussions with other institutions on the subject have resulted in the decision that a regional Workshop/Seminar on New Technologies for Development will be held in Trinidad and Tobago during March/April 1986. The Workshop will be convened by CARICOM with joint sponsorship of CCST, UNESCO, UNCSTD and CARIRI. CCST members will be kept informed of latest developments on the Workshop.

- Workshop on the Pharmaceutical Sector in the Caribbean

A Workshop organized by CCST on the Pharmaceutical Sector in the Caribbean was scheduled to be held in Cuba in October 1984, but had to be postponed. Since that time, some countries have expressed their concern on this and have urged the Secretariat to make all efforts to convene such a Workshop. Responses from member countries, though, have not been forthcoming as to level of participation and best possible dates for the Workshop. Since the financial cost of participation continues to be a major factor for the success of the Workshop, the Secretariat is seeking funds from the UN-TCDC Unit to enable participation and have set a tentative date of March 1986 for the convening of the Workshop.

- Workshop on Problems of Science Popularization

A Regional Seminar/Workshop on the Problems of Science Popularization in the Caribbean was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 9-11 October 1985. This Workshop was organized by the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) and sponsored by COSTED, UNESCO and CCST.

Participants were introduced to the subject of science popularization and to mechanisms for science popularization. Arising out of discussions was the recommendation for a regional science fair which would demonstrate what participants had learned. A detailed report of the Workshop is made available to participants.

- Workshop on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

At the invitation of the Commonwealth Science Council, the Secretariat participated in this Workshop in St. Kitts from 16-18 October 1985 and highlighted the possible collaborative work between the CSC and CCST and in particular, the similarity of objective between this project and the Pharmaceuticals Workshop scheduled for 1986.

JOINT ACTIVITIES

Following discussions with the IDRC Regional Director in Bogotá, the Secretariat has been able to obtain agreement to implement some projects for IDRC. The first project is the Technological Capability Survey of Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia, which is due to be completed by mid-December. This project blends well with, and can be seen as a continuation or updating of the very first project of CCST for the 1981-1983 work programme, "Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities".

The precarious financial situation of the Council continues to affect timely implementation of the projects and work programme, but it is hoped that member states will continue to give the necessary support to the Council to enable it to fulfil its modest aspirations for the coming years.