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10-11 December 1998

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES OF THE CCST SECRETARIAT FOR 1999



UNITED NATIONS

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

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES OF THE CCST SECRETARIAT FOR 1999

The proposed work programme attempts to complete the activities initiated over the past five years, in order to enable the Council to undertake activities under the new five-year plan, beginning in the year 2000. However, the ability of the Council to realize its objectives is very dependent on the financial situation that will obtain in 1999. To this end, the secretariat is again making a special appeal to member states to meet their financial obligations in a timely manner, for the beginning of 1999 and beyond. The contributions, small as they are, are useful in mobilizing additional resources from other agencies and governments and shows a level of commitment to the work of the Council.

Proposed activities

1. Regional Science and Technology Policy

The Regional Science and Technology Policy was discussed and amended in January 1998. The secretariat will finalize the document and present same to member countries, for adoption at an appropriate body or meeting. In addition emanating from the Policy developed, member states will be provided with assistance in developing national policies that will give effect to the regional policy. It is hoped that by the end of 1999, all member states would have established national science and technology bodies, whether in the form of Councils or otherwise in order to give effect to the regional policy.

2. Renewable energy

While the secretariat will continue to monitor activities in this sector and assist in identifying possible sources of funding for projects at the national level, most of the efforts of the secretariat will be devoted to reintroducing the model Energy Policy developed in 1994; and to encourage member states to adopt said policy which will form the basis for activities in that sector at the national level. Member states are asked to keep the secretariat informed of activities undertaken so that these can be shared with the Council and may inform activities for 2000.

3. Science teaching

It is expected that the Organisation of American States (OAS) will fund the continuation of this project. However, a project proposal has been submitted to the National Science Foundation of the United States, in order to provide a fall back position should the OAS funding not come through. In any event, member states are urged to continue to have their national holiday academies, in order to maintain the momentum of the project.

4. Agro-processing

As with the science teaching project, it is hoped that the project will continue to receive support from the OAS. The "Simbiosis" web page and data base will be maintained; as well as the provision of assistance to member states in improving their own capability for maintaining their sites. Other activities will be dependent on the funds approved by the OAS.

5. Determination of priorities for science and technology for development

Assistance will be given to member states in the conduct of the priority setting exercise at the national levels. In addition, it is expected that a workshop on priorities will be held to inform the next five year work programme of the Council and, to develop collaborative activities with other institutions, namely, the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Commonwealth Council that have conducted similar exercises though in specific issues.

6. Indicators on science and technology

Assistance will be provided to member states in the collection and interpretation of indicators of science and technology for development following the workshop held in 1998. Member states are asked to begin to put the process in place for the collection of these indicators and to inform the secretariat of their needs for effectively implementing the programme.

7. Follow-up to water resources meeting

A workshop on demand management is to be held, as well as one on the documenting of best practices to be used as examples in the region.

8. CCST Newsletter

The Council will continue to publish the newsletter under the new format. Member states are again urged to submit articles for publication, as well as provide information on ongoing activities which could be incorporated in the newsletter. Four issues of the newsletter are expected to be published in 1999.

9. Competitiveness and industrial development programme

The Council will continue work in this area in the context of the banana fibre project and within the OAS-funded project on agro-processing. Discussions are ongoing with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for assistance in developing a project on biotechnology and natural products with particular emphasis on marine biotechnology. The report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) consultant will be distilled and circulated to member states for comments and out of this project proposals will be developed for funding

considerations.

10. Development of the Five Year Work programme of the CCST (2000 - 2004)

The secretariat will develop a tentative five year work programme focusing on national products and biotechnology, renewable energy in the agricultural sector, integrated science and technology planning for development, integrated water resources management and policy issues in science and technology. This programme will be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration and when finalized, to the Plenary for adoption, after circulation to member states.

11. Meeting of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology

A number of initiatives and activities have been undertaken which require discussion and ratification at the policy making level, in order to move forward. It is hoped that these initiatives would be presented to a meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology, to be held in conjunction with the CARICOM Secretariat in 1999. This will also serve as an opportunity to present the proposed five-year work programme, the Energy Policy, the Regional Science and Technology Policy and other issues of importance to the development process.

12. Resource mobilization

The secretariat will continue efforts at securing funds for the programmes and projects developed. However, in order to facilitate this process, some seed money is necessary to enable travel and attendance at meetings, where a number of decisions on programmes and project funding take place.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 1999 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Science & technology policy

One (1) coordinating meeting: 4 persons for 3 nights (travel, DSA)	\$ 2,000
Travel for technical assistance	\$ 3,000
Total	\$ 5,000

2. Renewable energy

Attendance at meetings	\$ 2,500
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3. Science teaching

Project budget	\$ 300,000
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4. Agro processing

Project budget	\$ 313,000
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5. Determination of priorities for science and technology development

Workshop 2 persons for 3 nights (DSA, ticket)	\$ 37,000
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6. Indicators on science and technology

Travel for technical assistance	\$ 3,500
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7. Follow-up to water resources meeting

Workshop on demand management 2 persons for 3 nights (ticket, DSA, etc)	\$ 30,000
Documentary on best practices	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 55,000

8. CCST Newsletter

Publication cost	\$ 1,000
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9. Competitiveness and industrial development programme

Banana fiber project cost	\$ 185,000
Biotechnology and natural products project cost	\$ 250,000
Total	\$ 430,000

10. Development of Five Year Work Programme

Communication costs	\$ 1,000
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11. Meeting of Ministers responsible for science and technology

Attendance of 2 persons; 5 nights (ticket, DSA)	\$ 50,000
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12. Executive Committee Meetings and Plenary Sessions

Attendance of 2 persons; 6 nights (DSA and ticket)	\$ 18,000
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TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS **\$1,216,000**

Recommended Sources of Funding for Project Activities 1999

Activities will be undertaken with CCST funds from member contributions, ECLAC and from extra budgetary sources for which resource mobilization will take place.

Activity	Budgetary Requirement	Possible Source of funds
Science & Technology Policy	\$ 5,000	CCST
Renewable energy	\$ 2,500	CCST
Development of five year work programme	\$ 1,000	CCST
Meetings of Executive and Plenary sessions	\$ 18,000	CCST
Sub total	\$ 26,500	
Meeting of Ministers of S&T	\$ 50,000	CARICOM/UNESCO/CCST
Science teaching	\$ 300,000	OAS
Agro-processing	\$ 313,000	OAS
Competitiveness and industrial development	\$ 430,000	TCDC Unit/EU
Water resources	\$ 55,000	CDB/IDB/WB/OAS
Determination of Priorities	\$ 37,000	UNESCO/EU
Science indicators	\$ 3,500	RICYT
Newsletter	\$ 1,000	ECLAC
TOTAL	\$1,216,000	

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