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Belize
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Information Note

UNESCO PROJECT ON THE CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF
EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
(CARNEID)

This project is developed and financed in its initial stages under the UNESCO regular programme within the context of the mandate from the Member States (UNESCO) during the 19th Session of the General Conference, Nairobi, 1976.

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1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the document.

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Caribbean Network of Educational Innovation for Development
(CARNEID)

Background

At the first meeting of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee held in Havana in 1975, the Member States of the Caribbean sub-region expressed the necessity and their determination to carry out a concerted action of mutual, social and economic development. On the basis of the needs which were outlined at this meeting by Member States, Unesco presented to the CDCC Inter-agency meeting in New York (June 1976) a networking project based on the experience gained in Asia (Asian Programme of Educational Innovation for Development), the main principle being that local, national and sub-regional resources in educational development can be rationalized and stimulated through inter-institutional co-operation and that existing international experiences should be made available throughout the region. At the 19th session of the General Conference in Nairobi (November 1976) Unesco was given a mandate to prepare the ground for the establishment of one or several sub-regional mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

A consultant was requested by Unesco to effect a preliminary study of the establishment of a sub-regional network of educational innovation for development in the Caribbean. The consultant visited Cuba, Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago at the end of 1976 in order to ascertain their interest in the network, identify at the national level innovative activities and projects which could offer useful experiences for exchange, to obtain views on possible mechanisms for inter-institutional cooperation as well as on financial assistance and to explore modalities for exchange.

The results of the consultation mission were preliminarily discussed at the 2nd meeting of the CDCC and at the Inter-agency Meeting (March 1977). They were further discussed at the 2nd meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Education in the Caribbean Community (August 1977) and the Committee expressed its agreement to participate in activities for the development of the project with a view

to ensuring its consistency with the educational objectives and programme of the Caribbean Community (Sub-region).

By means of a letter dated 27/9/77, Unesco submitted the report of the above mentioned consultant mission to the Member States for their comments and reactions in view of the organization of the preparation of the CARNEID programme.

Conceptual Format of CARNEID

The underlying principle of CARNEID is the promotion of technical cooperation by and among developing countries. Networking is a pragmatic approach to optimize existing institutional resources within a general strategy of innovation and change in education for socio-economic and cultural development. Networking is not therefore an objective per se. The role of international assistance here is that of facilitating interaction among existing institutions and acting also as a catalytic factor for development.

CARNEID fosters the belief that :

- there is a need to explore ways and means for inter-institutional collaboration in order to exploit the resources in the sub-region;
- it is preferable to base this on the exchange of skills among already existing institutions in the countries or sub-region rather than creating institution-building projects.

Principle objectives and Modalities of CARNEID :

The basic objective of CARNEID is to assist Member States in the achievement of their national development goals by promoting relevant educational innovations and, more particularly, by :

- a) promoting awareness of the possibility of directing innovations in education to assist national development;
- b) encouraging experimentation and indigenous innovative techniques in solving educational problems;
- c) strengthening inter-institutional cooperation in the exchange of ideas, information, documentation, experience. and personnel in areas of educational innovation related to development.

Attitude of Member States

All the Caribbean countries visited by the Unesco consultant expressed at that time interest towards the idea of a Caribbean Network of educational innovation for development.

It was felt that the CARNEID proposal would help cooperative action within the sub-region which has not always been facilitated by difficulties of communication of language and the diversified cultural background.

Possible Areas for CARNEID Programme Activity

During the UNESCO consultation mission, different areas were mentioned by Member States as possible areas for inter-institutional cooperation in educational innovation for development in the sub-region, which included:

- management;
- curriculum and materials development;
- teacher training;
- education and technology;
- work/study programme;
- vocational and technical training;
- adult education;
- elimination of language barriers, etc.

If CARNEID should become an inter-institutional cooperative programme, priority areas to be developed should be determined in function of national development goals of the countries in the sub-region.

Activities

As requested by the Caribbean Member States (at the second session of the CDCC) as well as at the "Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Education" Meeting (August, 1977), the following preparatory activities have been envisaged by Unesco for development in 1978 and 1979.

Phase I

- identify national development goals of each Member State in the Caribbean;
- identifying national coordinating bodies and innovative educational institutions (April - December 1978)

- sub-regional meeting of specialists (Programme Development meeting) to identify priority programme areas in the light of national development goals and draw up guidelines for a work plan for the four-year period and selection of national innovative institutions (during the second half of 1978).

Phase II⁽¹⁾

- preparation of a draft general programme document on CARNEID and work plan;
- national seminars on educational innovation for development (June to December 1979)

Phase III⁽¹⁾

- a sub-regional consultation meeting to finalize the programme document and work plan of CARNEID and draw up a four-year project document for extra budgetary financing (September 1979);
- appointment of project coordinator (UNESCO Regular Programme - 1980)

Government's Contribution

It is expected that the Governments will contribute to the inter-institutional cooperative programme of CARNEID in the following manner:

- by maintaining and servicing the national institutions in connection with CARNEID;
- through national projects serving as facilities for training;
- by facilitating the organization within the country of inter-country visits, national and/or sub-regional meetings and workshops;
- through provision of national specialists and expertise in the various fields of innovations;
- by providing material and financial contributions as may be required by the programme

(1) Subject to approval of Unesco's Draft Programme and Budget for 1979-1980 by the 20th General Conference in late 1978.

- through contributions in the form of financial, material and human, for support of sub-regional activities;
- by providing funds for travel and per diem of **nationals** for attending sub-regional technical meetings.

UNESCO Participation

UNESCO's participation will take the form of :

- serving as general executing agent for CARNEID, securing support for CARNEID from its regular programme funds and from other international and bilateral agencies, as well as serving to facilitate inter-regional exchange of ideas, information, and experience relevant to educational innovation for development;
- staff missions to assist in preparing the programme;
- organization and financial assistance for the sub-regional meeting of specialists (programme development in 1978) and the sub-regional consultation meeting (1979)⁽¹⁾
- appointment of a project coordinator (1980)⁽¹⁾

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