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Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE

CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



CCST WORK PROGRAMME 1991-1992



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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The work programme of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) is given below. It was hoped that a greater part of its operations would be to co-ordinate and collaborate the activities of member countries at the regional level. Lack of systematic national work programmes, however, has not made this possible. It is still hoped that member countries will develop their national programmes and transmit these to the Council as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the information exchange and the provision of technical assistance within the framework of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) as envisaged in the Statutes.

The Council, nevertheless, has dovetailed its work programme for 1991-1992 to take into account various recommendations and decisions adopted at several fora, viz., the Vienna Programme of Action, CARICOM science and technology policy, the Latin America and CARICOM contact group and the Regional Economic Conference, at which members of the Council participated. It is hoped that such an approach will provide the integrated and inter-related activities which should take place between the scientific and technological community and the other sectors of economic and social activity in the region. The approach also focuses on the operationalization of policies agreed to by member countries.

Financial constraints, however, continue to pose serious limitations on the extent of the Council's achievements. In light of this, the Council has only added two new programmes to its existing ones for implementation this year. The interim secretariat will be primarily engaged in writing detailed project proposals and in seeking funding for the implementation of the proposed activities.

National consultations on science and technology:
Belize and Saint Christopher and Nevis

The series of national consultations on science and technology has been intended to examine the role of science and technology in the development of the smaller countries of the CCST, and to make recommendations on organization, policy and programmes for science and technology for national development.

Objectives of the programme are:

- (a) To identify structures and personnel within the State to serve as focal points for science and technology activities;
- (b) To assist in science and technology popularization;
- (c) To assist in the development of science and technology in the country;
- (d) To develop a mechanism by which science and technology policies can be integrated within the national planning process.

Consultations have so far been held in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The series will conclude when those consultations scheduled for Belize and Saint Christopher and Nevis are held.

The three-day consultations will seek to bring together representation from as many of the sectors or subsectors that are involved in science and technology and socio-economic planning. Also, representation will be from regional and international agencies and Caribbean countries at similar stages of development.

CCST will assist in the cost of bringing regional resource persons to the consultations.

The budget for the consultations is estimated at:

Belize	US\$5,000.
Saint Christopher and Nevis	<u>US\$3,000.</u>
TOTAL US\$	<u>US\$8,000.</u>

Regional workshop to evaluate series of national consultations

An analysis of these consultations is necessary to determine how useful the individual consultations have been. The three-day workshop will bring together the co-ordinators of the national consultations. The similarities and differences of the results of the consultations will be examined to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches. This will, in turn, assist in strengthening those areas of need in member countries and assist in their development efforts while allowing for the identification of regional activities.

Airfare and per diem for seven co-ordinators	US\$4,000
Other speakers	1,500
Contingencies	<u>500</u>
TOTAL US\$	<u>6,000</u>

Activities arising out of the Vienna Programme of Action (VI) on Science and Technology for Development

Part III of the report of the VPA, adopted in 1979, calls for strengthening the role of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology and the provision of increased financial resources. The Council will undertake a review of the United Nations system in light of the recommendations outlined in the document and make its own recommendations to member countries regarding sourcing and/or utilization of assistance, both technical and financial, in science and technology, which may be available through the United Nations system.

This activity should be completed by May 1992 and reviewed periodically.

Activities coming out of the draft science and technology policy for the Caribbean

There are two specific areas cited in the policy in which the Council is pursuing or will pursue activities. One of these, under the heading "On the nature and scope of science and technology", focuses on scientific and technological services. One such activity is the establishment of: "technological extension programmes and the transfer of technological knowledge (technical assistance for productive work)".

The draft policy recognizes the need to provide scientific and technological services to assist in the general area of technology transfer. The Council is already engaged in an activity in this area and, to this end, has developed the project on Technology Extension Service. If successful as a pilot scheme within the countries of the Organizations of East Caribbean States (OECS), such extension services could be implemented throughout the Caribbean.

The second falls within the area "making science and technology an integral part of Caribbean culture" specifically "increase the exposure of students at the primary and secondary levels of science, technology and mathematics".

To assist in establishing science and technology as an integral part of Caribbean culture, the Council proposes to develop two series of workshops to increase the exposure of students at both primary and secondary levels to science, technology and mathematics.

The workshops will provide an evaluation and make recommendations on the current status of science and technology teaching. They will each be conducted in two phases: - a review workshop and a teacher training workshop.

(i) Primary level workshops

There are a number of teaching methodologies developed by teaching institutions and in use worldwide. Examples of these are those currently in use in the region, programmes from the University of Hawaii (FAST), University of California, University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

In the form of round-table discussions, science teaching methods, course contents and latest approaches to science teaching will be analysed. Out of this, the most suitable approach for Caribbean needs will be developed.

Using one workshop, the evaluation of recommendations will be carried out and, subsequently, a second workshop will be hosted to introduce the programme to one representative each from the teacher training institutions and community colleges in the region.

The primary level workshop will be conducted in December 1991.

(ii) Secondary level workshops

The review workshop will examine the CXC integrated science programme and the extent to which the curriculum allows linkages with the environment and industry, promotes science and encourages inventiveness in the student body.

In addition to representatives of teacher training institutions it will include representatives from the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC), technical schools and industry to review science and technology teaching at the secondary level. There will also be comparison with regional and extra-regional programmes.

The teacher training workshop will host 4-6 representatives from each country and involve teacher training institutions and selected secondary school science teachers. Two workshops may be needed for this country. The workshops will be scheduled for April 1992.

While no cost is included here, the secretariat will prepare a draft proposal with estimated costs and submit same for funding.

Activities arising from co-operation in science and technology between Latin American and CARICOM countries

At the second meeting of Ministries and Institutions Responsible for Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (4-5 April 1991), the Government of Colombia, among other activities proposed a Latin American and CARICOM meeting on scientific and technological policies to be held for five days from 17 June 1991, in Colombia. This meeting would "obtain different points of view of scientific and technological policies and the process for the organization of the national science and technological system of each country" and would "make a diagnosis of the requirements necessary in order to obtain guidelines for respective supports".

CCST was assigned the role of co-ordinating agency for the countries of the Caribbean for the meeting. To that end, the Council will prepare the working paper document for the meeting, (now scheduled for September 1991), outlining initiatives in science and technology policy already taken in the region. The document will be completed by August.

The Council will also collaborate with the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) of Trinidad and Tobago, which has been given the responsibility of co-ordinating a proposed meeting on marine ecosystems.

The Council will also assist in identifying sources of funding to facilitate activities relating to the development of linkages between institutions in the region, by enabling personnel to participate in seminars/workshops and through short-term assignments, as recommended by the Group.

In calling for the establishment of technology extension services, the Regional Economic Conference endorsed the recommendation made in the science and technology policy for the

Caribbean as approved by CARICOM Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology. In that respect, the Council had earlier developed a draft project for a Technology Extension Service, which was favourably considered by UNIDO whereby a consultant has undertaken the first phase of the proposed project.

Activities arising out of the Regional Economic Conference

Technology Extension Service

Having completed evaluation of the existing centres with respect to available human resources, infrastructure and facilities for training and research, the second phase should proceed in July/August 1991. The design of the service will be based on the consultation's recommendations of the first phase, in conjunction with inputs from representatives of associated organizations.

The selection of personnel for the service should begin in September/October. Following this, the three-week training workshop will be held and the implementation of the service initiated.

CCST Newsletter

The Council will continue to publish the newsletter bi-monthly. The value of the newsletter would be greatly enhanced if CCST members would submit material for publication and members are urged to do so. Material need not be restricted to articles, but may include upcoming events, short reports on meetings/seminars/workshops, already published material and names of publications.

Compendium of Organizations and Institutions

The Council will update the Compendium to provide member countries with information on the activities and services of regional and international organizations and institutions in the area of science and technology.

Meetings

Executive committee meetings

Two meetings are scheduled for the upcoming year. The cost of each meeting is approximately US\$5,000.

Total US\$10,000

Plenary session 1992

Provision is made in the work programme for holding a session in 1991. Expected cost is US\$15,000.

US\$5,000 is granted by the United Nations through Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) from regular budget funds for the Executive Committee and Plenary Session meetings.

Total cost of meetings is US\$25,000.

Environmental issues

The preservation of the environment remains a major concern of CCST. The Council, due to the financial constraints identified earlier, will not undertake any specific activity in this area. Nevertheless, it will continue to monitor the activities of other organizations and analyse, assess and transmit information to its member countries.

The Council hopes in the next work programme year to hold discussions with competent institutions and agencies in this area. Following this, it will attempt to develop a programme or project to deal with issues not being addressed presently, or for which the Council would be better equipped to undertake.

All of the Council's activities will continue to take into consideration the need to promote and utilize TCDC. To this end, the Council draws upon resources and expertise available within its membership in the design and implementation of its programmes.

