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



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean



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Introduction

At its Second Session in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (March, 1977) the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) decided to establish a Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST). The Statutes of the CCST were duly adopted and signed in Jamaica on 17th April 1980. The first Plenary Session of the Council was convened in Barbados 29th June to 2nd July 1981. The Second Plenary was held in Jamaica, 3rd to 5th November 1982.

This Second Annual Report describes the activities of the CCST from the Second Plenary Session to July 1983.

Officers of the Council 1982-1983

Following the principle of equitable geographic distribution the following Officers were elected for the year.

Chairman:	Dr. M.O. "Pat" Hamilton (Jamaica)
Vice Chairman:	Ms. Erica McIntosh (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
Honorary Treasurer:	Dr. Iwan Kortram (Suriname)

The above Officers together with Dr. U.O'D. Trotz (Guyana) comprised the Executive Committee.

Membership

During the period under review the Governments of Belize and Haiti deposited Instruments of Ratification with the ECLA/CDCC Secretariat and the full membership of CCST is now:

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

Work Programme

At the First Plenary Session (1981) it was proposed that the initial activities of the Council should be planned for a 2-year period (1981-1983) which would be considered as the Establishment Phase of the Council. Certain guidelines were proposed under which six (6) projects were identified in order of priority. 1/

At the Second Plenary Session (1982) it was decided that work should continue on the first six (I-VI) projects and a further two (VII and VIII) were introduced. 2/

Progress on each project is given in Annex 1 together with progress made by the various Specialized Committees and Working Groups which were established to guide the work of the Council.

Funding

The Council has not been immune to the effects of the regional recession on the economies of many of its Member States so that in some cases payments of the annually assessed contributions (US\$8000 for MDC's and US\$2000 for LDC's) have not yet been made. This has adversely affected the work of the Council, since external funding agencies would like to see prior tangible commitment by CCST Members before pledging their own scarce resources. Council members are therefore asked to do their utmost to ensure that all contributions are brought up to date at the earliest possible time.

1/ CDCC/CCST/82/9

2/ E/CEPAL/CDCC/97

Secretariat

Because of severe financial constraints no attempt has been made to establish a Secretariat with paid full-time personnel. The ECLA Subregional Office for the Caribbean has continued to supply interim secretariat services. Provision has been made in the Work Programme for the 1984-1985 biennium for continued support. The Council therefore wishes to record sincere thanks and appreciation for this generous gesture which has made possible essential catalytic activity during the year.

Meetings of the Council

The Third Executive Committee Meeting of the Council ^{3/} was held in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the 27th-28th January 1983, under the chairmanship of Dr. M.O. Hamilton. It is hoped that the ~~Fourth Executive Committee Meeting~~ will be convened on 25 July in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, immediately prior to the ~~Third Plenary Session~~.

3/ The Report of this Meeting is contained in Document No. CDCC/CCST/83/4.

Meetings at which the Council was represented:-

The Council was represented at the following Meetings:-

1. Preparatory Meeting for Workshop on "Technology Problems for the Caribbean". (Jamaica, 5 - 7 January 1983)
sponsored by the International Development Research Centre.
2. Caribbean Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (Antigua and Barbuda, 19 - 21 January 1983)
sponsored by the Organization of American States(OAS).
3. Meeting of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology, (Kingston, Jamaica, 6 - 7 April 1983)
sponsored by CARICOM and UNESCO.
4. Preparatory Meeting for Workshop on "New Technologies and their implications for the Caribbean", (Kingston, Jamaica 23 - 24 May 1983)
5. Meeting of Steering Committee for the Caribbean Alternative Energy Plan, (Barbados 27 May 1983)
sponsored by the Commonwealth Science Council.

ANNEX I

PROJECTS AND SPECIALISED COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

GENERAL BACKGROUND

From the inception it was proposed that all CCST Projects should enhance the thrust for regional collaboration in Science and Technology among the Member Countries. Certain criteria for identifying and ranking projects were therefore suggested, among which were that projects should:-

- (i) give tangible results within a given time-frame;
- (ii) complement and support other regional efforts and avoid duplication;
- (iii) bridge the gap between the academician, the technician and the end-user;
- (iv) include mechanisms for wide dissemination of results amongst Member Countries.

All projects undertaken have satisfied the above criteria.

Council also established Specialised Committees/Working Groups which provide technical advice on its programmes and activities.

PROJECT I

Title: Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities

Objectives:

To obtain information on the quality and quantity of personnel involved in Science and Technology activities at national level and their deployment within the national framework for development.

Progress since November 1982

The Research Assistant (Science and Technology) visited Montserrat, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines during March to assist respective national counterparts. The original questionnaires were modified to be more relevant to the resources available and the specific needs of the countries. Montserrat and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have completed and returned their questionnaires to the Secretariat for analysis. Grenada has also submitted its information. St. Lucia is in the process of implementing the survey, whilst at Dominica's request a suitable programme of assistance is being arranged.

The Dominican Republic has completed its national survey and is hoping to publish the results before the end of 1983.

Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago have not yet submitted reports to the Secretariat.

PROJECT II

Title: Establishment of a Science and Technology Journal

Objective:

To bring the activities of the CCST to the attention of scientists, technologists, planners, decision-makers and funding Agencies.

Progress since November 1982

At the Second Plenary Session an Editorial Board was established as follows:-

Dominican Republic	Chairman
Jamaica	Member
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Member
Suriname	Member

All the countries have now named their representatives, but due to financial constraints it was not possible to convene a formal meeting. However, an informal meeting with the Chairman of CCST, the Jamaican Representative and the Secretariat was held in Jamaica on 25 May. It was decided to put together (for restricted circulation) a preliminary document from a selection of the articles already deposited with the Secretariat. The document has been printed by the Information Unit of the Scientific Research Unit, Jamaica and is now circulated to obtain the reactions of Council for the guidance of the Editorial Board.

The updated Information Note on CCST (Document No. CDCC/CCST/82/11/Rev.2) has also been prepared and the reactions of the Council will also be welcome.

PROJECT III

Title: Preparation and Exchange of Audio-Visual Material
for Education in Science and Technology

Objectives:

(i) To sensitise students, teachers, decision-makers and the general public about the pivotal role which Science and Technology can perform in present day society.

(ii) To train teachers, film technicians and adult educators in the various methods of displaying and projecting Science and Technology information so that it can be readily understood and appreciated by non-scientists.

Progress since November 1982

A project Leader with wide experience in the preparation of audio-visual material was identified and a team, comprising the Project Leader and two technicians from the Ministry of Education, Trinidad and Tobago and a Research Assistant travelled to and around the following countries:-

Barbados

Guyana

Grenada

Trinidad and Tobago

visiting national as well as regional institutions to film the Science and Technology activities which were taking place in such areas as computers, biogas, solar energy and charcoal production. A shortened version of the Trinidad and Tobago experience was viewed by the Caribbean Ministers responsible for Science and Technology at their meeting in Jamaica during April and evoked a very positive response.

A second film has also been prepared and both films will be shown during the Third Plenary Session.

A regional Training Workshop for Teachers and Film Technicians is being planned to demonstrate how a national unit in any developing country can produce Audio-Visual teaching aids from indigenous material.

PROJECT IV

Title: A Study of the Consequences of the Development
of Energy Crops in Food Supplies in the Region

Objective:

To collect and analyse information which would assist regional planners and decision-makers in the critical evaluation and choice of options on the production of crops for food or for fuel.

Progress since November 1982

Two Consultants were recruited and they have prepared and submitted a Report to the Secretariat. The Report Document No. CDCC/CCST/83/10 contains a precise plan of action together with provisional estimates and has been forwarded to relevant Agencies requesting their support.

PROJECT V

Title: Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm for
Crop Plants

Objective:

To assist regional centres with the identification, exchange, conservation and storage of genetic material from indigenous as well as introduced crop plants.

Progress since November 1982

An updated and costed version of this project was submitted to the Commonwealth Foundation with a request for funding. This request was considered very favourable and a grant was approved to assist the Consultant with travel and subsistence during the two month initial phase of the project. The Consultant is expected to commence the assignment within the next two months.

PROJECT VI

Title: Development of Agro-Industries and Employment
Opportunities particularly at Rural Level

Objectives:

(i) To reduce post-harvest losses by optimising the small-scale processing of agricultural produce, particularly in rural areas.

(ii) To increase individual income by the scale of processed and semi-processed products.

Progress since November 1982

The Consultant's Report of his visit to Dominica and Grenada has been submitted to Agencies with a request for funding. Although no definite response has been received at the Secretariat, it is envisaged that this project will be incorporated into a regional programme on Agro-Industry.

PROJECT VII

Title: The Potential and Limitations of Newly
Emerging Technologies for Developing Countries

Objectives:

(i) To create an awareness of the implications of Newly Emerging Technologies among senior officials and decision-makers in regional governments and institutions.

(ii) To identify and implement the type of practical action which would be most effective for the beneficial utilisation of these technologies.

Progress since November 1982

With the assistance of UNESCO, a Preparatory Meeting was convened in Jamaica on 23-24 May to plan a Workshop on "New Technologies and their Implications for Caribbean Development".

The Workshop has been scheduled for five working days during the first quarter of 1984 and will involve fifty (50) participants (scientists, decision-makers, resource persons). The programme is being structured to allow for maximum interaction between officials, technocrats and the equipment available in the field.

Lead Papers will be presented on the following themes:

Theme I Global Trends in New Technologies

Theme II Caribbean Trends in New Technologies

Theme III Development of Regional Capabilities for making
Technological Choices

Theme IV New Technologies in the Assessment of National
Resources

The Papers will be followed by analytical discussions from
which it is envisaged that recommendations for specific
courses of action will emerge.

PROJECT VIII

Title: A Science and Technology Policy for the Caribbean

Objective:

To formulate a cohesive regional policy on Science and Technology which will harmonise the priorities and present capabilities of individual Member Countries.

Progress since November 1982

A Consultant was identified to prepare a consensual document of national policies in Science and Technology. However, due to lack of funds it was not possible to begin the consultancy.

In its coordinating role, Council is expected to encourage its Members to articulate a collective position in preparation for the Second Conference of UNESCO Ministers responsible for the application of Science and Technology for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CASTALAC II). Council therefore expects to convene a Regional Meeting of Representatives from National Science and Technology Policy-Making Institutions early in 1984.

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Under Article 8 of its Statutes, Council established Specialised Committees/Working Groups in the following areas:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Area</u>
1	Energy
2	Transfer of Technology and Patents
3	Information Systems
4	Agricultural Research
5	Marine Affairs (including Fisheries)
6	Health, Nutrition and the Technical Preparation of Pharmaceuticals
7	Universities, Industrial Sector and other Private and Public Sector Institutions
8	Newly Emerging Technologies

Some Member Countries have not supplied the names of national representatives to serve on the various Committees, however, activity to-date on some of the Committees is as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1	No action taken
2	A definite offer of assistance has been received from the World Intellectual Property Organization to co-sponsor a Meeting early in 1984. Details are presently being formalised.
3	No action taken

Committee

Activity

- 4 A Workshop has been programmed for 26-30 September in Trinidad and Tobago on the theme "Agricultural Research Policy and Management". The Workshop will bring together the Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Agriculture and the Directors of Agriculture Research in Member Countries and will extend over five days. Two days will be devoted to discussions on research policy and the remaining three days to issues concerning management of research institutes, programmes and allocated resources. Discussion papers will be prepared by national, regional and international experts. Other participants will be afforded the opportunity to present papers specific to their interests.
- 5 Discussions are in progress to convene a Meeting of this Committee as early as possible, with the assistance of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Council will also coordinate the Mission of Experts which will visit the region to formulate the programme which will enhance the Marine Science Capabilities of Developing Countries.
- 6 Discussions are in progress to convene a Meeting in Cuba during February 1984. The Meeting will be preceded by a Seminar/Workshop which will be spread over four working days and will include a number of lectures prepared and delivered by recognised experts in the field of Pharmaceuticals. The lectures are intended to stimulate round-table discussion with involvement of all participants in a brain-storming session. The ideas emanating from the Workshop are expected to form the basis of the future work programme of this Committee.

Lead Papers will be presented on the following themes:-

- 1 Global overview of the State-of-the-art in technical Preparation of Pharmaceuticals;
- 2 Regional experiences in technical preparation of Pharmaceuticals;
- 3 Role and contributions of national and transnational organizations in the field of Pharmaceuticals;
- 4 Potential and scope for collaboration between national, regional and international agencies;
- 5 Industrial utilization of medical and aromatic plants;
- 6 New trends in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Immediately following the Workshop, the First Meeting of the Committee on Technical Preparation of Pharmaceuticals will be convened.

Participants

The Workshop will bring together fifty participants comprising:-

- 1 High Level Scientists and decision-makers of Member States together with resource persons of international standing;
- 2 Representatives from the following organizations: World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, CARICOM, University of the West Indies, University of Guyana, Commonwealth Secretariat; and
- 3 Representatives of various Pharmaceutical Corporations with interests in the Caribbean.

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