REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF CARIBBEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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The First Meeting of Caribbean Ministers responsible for Science and Technology was held in Kingston, Jamaica, 6-8 April 1983, under the auspices of CARICOM and UNESCO.

The Meeting was attended by:

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
British Virgin Islands
Dominica
Grenada
Guyana
Jamaica
Montserrat
Netherlands Antilles
St. Kitts-Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago

The following Agencies and Organizations with interest in regional Science and Technology activities also attended as observers:

- Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)
- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee/Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CDCC/CCST)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- University of the West Indies/Institute of Economic and Social Research (UWI/ISER)
- World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO)

The main discussions of the Meeting were focused on:

(i) The need to increase, at higher decision-making level, the integration of S+T within the overall strategies for national and regional development, and

(ii) Developing a regional collaborative framework for utilising S+T in development.
After wide ranging discussions, the following decisions were made:

1. That, in the first instance, regional collaboration should be focused on two areas which are considered critical to economic development, viz:
   - Agro-industry, and
   - Information Systems with reference to Transfer of Technology and issuing of patents.

2. That an institutional mechanism should be established which would translate the policy-decisions of the Meetings into action programmes. This was envisaged as an Interim Co-ordinating Committee (ICC), comprising representatives from Caribbean and other International Agencies, which include the CCST and which would report to a five-member inter-ministerial sub-committee.

3. That a special workshop should be convened as soon as possible to determine and map out in depth the range of issues covered in the Working Document prepared by the UNESCO consultant.

4. That a report of the Interim Committee should be submitted to the Inter-Ministerial Group no later than August 1983.

5. That a Second Ministerial Meeting be convened within eighteen months in Roseau, Dominica. This Meeting will review progress made, decide on a more permanent co-ordinating mechanism and give whatever further policy directions may be necessary.

The terms of reference of the ICC are to:

1. Identify priority areas to be addressed in the short-, medium-, and long-term;

2. Elaborate projects for implementation including costing as well as mechanisms and strategy for implementation;
3. Identify possible sources of funding;

4. Monitor and evaluate the mechanisms identified for projects to be implemented.