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

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST)



UNITED NATIONS

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

21 SEP 1992



**THE NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST)**

This ninth Annual Report describes the activities of the CCST during the period September 1990 (when the ninth Plenary Session was held) to June 1991.

Officers of the Council 1990-1991

In keeping with the decision adopted at the eighth Plenary Session, the officers of the Executive Committee for 1990-1991 were those elected at the seventh Plenary Session in 1987, completing their term of office.

Chairman:	Jamaica	Gladstone Taylor
Vice-Chairman:	Cuba	Tirso Saenz
Honorary Treasurer:	Saint Lucia	Aloysius Barthelmy
Member:	Trinidad and Tobago	Desmond Ali

Membership

The membership of the Council is as follows:

Antigua/Barbuda	Jamaica
Belize	Saint Christopher and Nevis
Cuba	Saint Lucia
Dominica	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada	Suriname
Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago
Haiti	

Both the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands have indicated their willingness to join the Council, but have not as yet submitted Instruments of Ratification.

Funding

During the period under review Cuba and Saint Lucia paid contributions to the Council for both 1990 and 1991.

Arrears in contributions are as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>1985-1990</u>	
	<u>Annual assessed</u>	<u>Arrears</u>
	<u>Contribution US\$</u>	
Antigua and Barbuda	2,000	10,000
Belize	2,000	- -
Dominica	2,000	6,000
Grenada	2,000	12,000
Haiti	2,000	12,000
Saint Christopher and Nevis	2,000	8,000
Saint Lucia	2,000	- -
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2,000	10,000
Cuba	8,000	- -
Guyana	8,000	48,000
Jamaica	8,000	48,000
Suriname	8,000	48,000
Trinidad and Tobago	8,000	32,000

Meetings of the Council

No Executive Committee meeting was held during the period under review.

Secretariat

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continued to supply interim secretariat services. ECLAC has budgeted the sum US\$10,000. towards two plenary sessions per biennium. The Council wishes to record its sincere appreciation to ECLAC for providing these services. From December to February, the officer with responsibility for science and technology was on mission to Haiti, assisting with that country's elections.

Discussions continue to be held at various levels, including the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) and CARICOM, on a permanent secretariat for CCST. In that respect, the interim secretariat brings to the attention of member countries the decision adopted at the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of CARICOM Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology held in Kingston, Jamaica 12-13 September 1990 at which it was agreed that the secretariat of CCST would reside with ECLAC, Port-of-Spain.

... A copy of the decision is annexed for ease of reference.

Publications

1. The eighth Annual Report of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) (LC/CAR/G.314 - CCST/90/7).
2. Minutes of the Ninth Plenary Session of CCST.
3. CCST Newsletter, Vol.6 Nos. 5 and 6; Vol.7 Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Meetings at which the Council was represented

Second Meeting of Ministries and Institutions responsible for Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, 4-5 April 1991.

The meeting examined concrete proposals from participating governments and institutions for areas and institutions, which would facilitate co-operation and establish mechanisms to implement co-operative efforts. It also established focal points for dealing with science and technology co-operation. Arising out of the meeting, CCST was asked to co-ordinate the Caribbean response to a proposal made by the representative of Colombia inviting participants to a Latin America and CARICOM Meeting on Technological Policies to be held in Magdalena, Colombia, 17-21 June 1991. This response was completed and submitted, although the meeting was postponed to September 1991.

Work programme

Progress on the implementation of work programme as approved by the ninth Plenary Session is given below.

CCST Newsletter

Objectives: To share knowledge of new and significant information in the areas of: (i) technical processes appropriate to countries in the region; (ii) projects in progress (iii) research results relevant to the development of the science and technology capability of the region.

The CCST Newsletter continues to be published bi-monthly. It still relies heavily on reprinted material despite appeals to member countries to submit contributions.

National consultations on science and technology

Objectives: To examine the role of science and technology in the development process of member countries and to comment on the organization, policy and programmes for science and technology at the national level within the framework of the regional science and technology policies.

Consultations had been proposed for both Saint Christopher and Nevis and Belize. The national consultation for Saint Christopher and Nevis, rescheduled for January 1991, had to be postponed at the request of that country and is yet to be rescheduled.

Discussions are underway with the Government of Belize for holding that country's consultation.

Regional workshop to evaluate series of national consultations

Objectives: To analyze the national consultations and to evaluate the outcomes of such consultations, positioning them within the regional science and technology policy adopted by the CARICOM Ministers.

Consultations have been held since 1987 in Saint Lucia, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. On completion of the consultations for Saint Christopher and Nevis and Belize, an evaluation workshop will be held to discuss the outcome of the consultations. Preparation for the workshop has started with the collection and preparation of all reports of the consultation into a single format. Once completed, they will form the basis for the work programme of the Council at both the national and regional levels.

Technology Extension Service

Objectives:

Long-term

(a) To facilitate small business development programmes in the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in keeping with the objectives of the OECS Governments Country Action Plan.

Immediate

(b) To establish industrial extension services within the OECS countries in collaboration with the Industrial Development Corporations (IDCs), the Produce Chemist's Laboratories (PCLs) and the National Development Foundations (NDFs) of these countries.

The project was approved at the eleventh Executive Committee Meeting in April 1990 and further endorsed by the Council at the ninth Plenary Session in September 1990.

The proposed project was expanded and submitted to member governments and national agencies for comments and endorsement. Response in support of the project was received from the Governments of Saint Lucia and Montserrat, The National Development Foundation of Antigua and Barbuda, National Development Foundation of Dominica, National Research and Development Foundation of Saint Lucia and the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) (Small Enterprise Assistance Project).

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) agreed to support the first phase of the project: a review of the role and functioning of support services provided by industrial development corporations, produce chemists laboratories, agricultural development banks, national research and development foundations and small business development foundations, to small businesses in the countries of the OECS. Terms of reference for this evaluation were drawn up by the interim secretariat and a visit was made by a UNIDO consultant, Mr. Luis Soto-Krebs and the Science and Technology Officer to Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Christopher and Nevis during the period 16-28 May.

The report has not yet been received, but recommendations from it will form the basis for the second phase of the project: designing an extension system service for implementation within the countries.

History of scientific and technological development in the Caribbean

Objectives: To obtain a comprehensive view of the social, cultural and ecological significance of science and technology in the region from historical to present times outlining the pathways selected for the role of science and technology in development in the Caribbean.

This project was mandated by the Executive Committee in April 1990 to highlight the achievements of member countries in science and technology. At that time, a core network was selected, comprising the members of the Executive Committee: Dr. Gladstone Taylor, Dr. Tirso Saenz, Mr. Aloysius Barthelmy, in addition to Dr. Ulric Trotz of Guyana.

Since then Cuba, represented by Dr. Saenz, has produced a methodology for the project (presented at the ninth Plenary Session) which was circulated to the other four members of the core network. Feedback was received from only one member of the network. The secretariat contacted Dr. Thomas de Gregori of the University of Houston, who has worked on the history of science and technology in other regions. A copy of his publication "Technology and the Economic Development of the Tropical African Frontier" has proved helpful in providing some guidelines for the project.

Contact was also made with other researchers in this field. A draft project was subsequently prepared by the secretariat for discussion at the tenth Plenary Session.

Compendium of Organizations and Institutions

Objective: To provide member countries with information on the activities and services provided by some regional and international organizations and institutions in the area of science and technology and financing.

The secretariat has produced the first issue of the Compendium, giving information on some regional and international institutions and organizations working and financing activities in the field of science and technology. The publication will be updated periodically.

REPORTS ON MISCELLANEOUS REGIONAL ACTIVITIES
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING REPORTS ON
(Agenda Item 10)

The Activities of the Caribbean Council
for Science and Technology (CCST)

THE STANDING COMMITTEE:

Reaffirmed its support for the CCST

Agreed that -

- (i) the subject of a permanent secretariat for CCST be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC);
- (ii) CARICOM Member States would propose at the next Meeting of the CDCC that the permanent Secretariat of the CCST be established in the Port-of-Spain Office of ECLAC.
- (iii) to formally convey to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC the sentiments of the CARICOM Membership of the CCST concerning the need for a permanent Secretariat for the CCST and that this Secretariat be established in the Port-of-Spain office of ECLAC.

