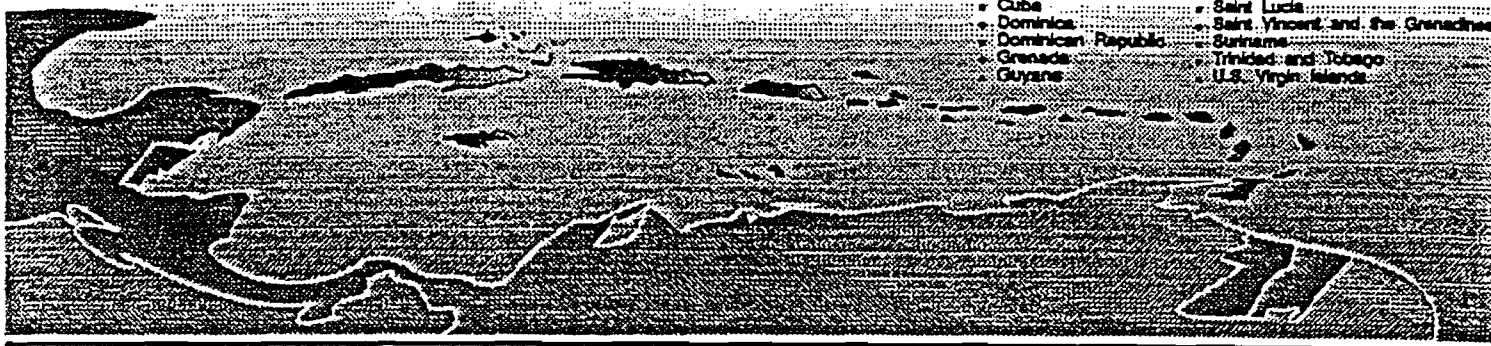


- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



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CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Eighteenth Executive Committee Meeting
of the CCST
9 June 1996
Kingston, Jamaica

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST)



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

**REPORT OF THE
EIGHTEENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST)**

Kingston, Jamaica - 9 June 1996

The eighteenth Executive Committee meeting of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) was held on 9 June 1996 in Kingston, Jamaica.

Members of the Executive Committee present were:

Dr. José Manuel Carballal, Cuba
Mr. Raymond Dundee, Guyana, Chairman
Dr. Dorothy Byfield, Jamaica
Mr. Christopher Corbin, St. Lucia, Vice-Chairman
Dr. LaVerne Ragster, USVI

Also present were Mr. Robes Pierre of Haiti and Mr. Cecil Reneau of Belize. Absent was Trinidad and Tobago.

Present as observers were Mr. Frank Granger, Sustainable Development Officer, CARICOM Secretariat, and Dr. Winthrop Wiltshire, Subregional Representative, UNESCO.

Staff of the CCST Secretariat : Mr. Donatus St. Aimée, Secretary and Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Technical Cooperation Assistant.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda item 1: Opening of Meeting

Mr. Donatus St. Aimée, Secretary of the Council, opened the meeting, noting with pleasure the presence of representatives of Belize and Haiti, whose participation in the meetings of the Council had not been previously possible. He expressed the hope that they would continue to participate meaningfully in the work of the Council and urged them to make their countries' needs known, so that the benefit of their membership in the Council could be maximised.

Mr. Raymond Dundee of Guyana conveyed the apologies of Mr. Navin Chandarpal from Guyana, Chairman of the Council, who had been unable to attend.

Agenda item 2: Consideration of the minutes of the thirteenth Plenary Session and the seventeenth Executive Committee meeting

It was noted that the third page of the report of the seventeenth Executive Committee meeting did not accurately reflect the designation of officers to the Executive Committee. At that meeting, it had been decided that Saint Lucia, and not Jamaica, as stated in the report would serve as Vice-Chairman.

Agenda item 3: Report of the activities of the Council in implementing its work programme

The Secretary invited the Committee to comment on the document "Report to the eighteenth Executive Committee meeting on CCST activities since the thirteenth Plenary Session - October 1995 to May 1996" (CCST/96/3). He stated that the activities should be considered vis-à-vis the activities contained in the five-year CCST work programme. An increase in the implementation rate of the work programme, he said, could be attributed to closer working relationships between the secretariat and the CCST focal points. In more than one case, arrears in annual contributions had been reduced by regional CCST activities funded by the host government. He expressed the intention to utilise this approach in an effort to assist governments in reducing any arrears, while facilitating CCST activities.

He also requested greater assistance from focal points in ensuring that activities at the national level contributed to the implementation of the CCST work programme. In this respect, he drew particular attention to the efforts of the National Council for Science and Technology in Barbados, the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Scientific Research Council (SRC) of Jamaica, to publish magazines and bulletins which were more regional in coverage. These would be circulated for review by all CCST focal points, with the assistance of the focal points concerned.

The Committee commented on various aspects of CCST activity as contained in the report.

Science and technology teaching

In response to a query about the nature of the changes made to the Teaching of Science and Technology Project, the Secretary gave a background to potentially fruitful links with anticipated donors for the project. The modifications were necessary to secure funding for the project. The project would be able to take advantage of a previously unused international component of the United States of America National Science Foundation Technology for All Americans project, and obtain resources and resource persons from the Rockefeller Foundation. Despite modification, it still included all of its original elements. When the modified version of the document was ready, it would be circulated to all focal points for review. The next step would be finalization of project details with University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) representatives, who retained their original role in guiding project activities as representative of the US Virgin Islands on the CCST Executive Committee.

Energy

The secretariat was requested to circulate to all focal points the list of renewable and energy efficiency projects submitted and accepted to the Americas component of the Solar Summit Process through the initiatives of the CCST.

In light of differences of opinion on various aspects of geothermal energy development in the Caribbean, and the suitability of actions proposed by the secretariat, it was suggested that a paper investigating the topic be prepared. The secretariat agreed to circulate a draft paper prepared by the CARICOM Secretariat, and any other relevant information, particularly regarding private sector involvement, to the Committee members.

A potential niche for the CCST in the technological aspects of competitiveness was identified by the Secretary. This was reflected in the interest generated by the recent workshop for banana industry and small business support agencies, which focused on technological approaches to enhancing competitiveness of banana industry diversification efforts. The software on which the workshop activities had been based could be applied to any sector of production.

The Secretary would try to provide this software to Executive Committee members, for reviewing and determining further action with wider geographic scope.

Regional database of technology services

The large number of activities dealing with technological information in the Caribbean was highlighted. The fact that activities at the national level were often coordinated by different focal points indicated the poor levels of organization in governments, and reduced the efficiency of resource use. Poor organization of science and technology activity at the national level also indicated poor understanding of the role of science and technology in development. It was suggested that the proposed project deal with recommendations for addressing this situation.

Subregional activities of relevance to coastal zone management

Attention was drawn to a number of activities in the region of relevance to coastal zone management. These included projects which focused on installation and monitoring of tidal gauges, such as a project being implemented by the Caribbean Meteorological Institute (CMI), and several others. There also existed a project on an early warning system for tsunamis. This scenario highlighted the need for an integrated oceanographic data system for the Caribbean, which would allow for proper analysis of the Caribbean situation.

Several activities related to public information on the coastal zone included the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Caribbean Sea Project, which involved teacher training in environmental education and UNESCO's beach and coastal stability project which included a public information component.

These projects, which were concurrent and overlapping in several cases, highlighted the need for greater sharing of information between agencies.

Agenda item 4: Future direction and work programme of the Council

Members accepted the proposals outlined in the report to the Executive Committee (see "Report to the eighteenth Executive Committee meeting on CCST activities since the thirteenth Plenary Session," LC/CAR/G.480)

Agenda item 5: Comments on the function of the secretariat of the Council

Strengthening of Caribbean positions in international forums

The extreme weakness of Caribbean delegations at international forums was noted and partly attributed to insufficient interministerial/departmental communication. Timeliness of communication was also an important factor. Members of the Committee called for greater sharing of information, and increased use of the CCST secretariat as a means for achieving this.

Members of the Committee requested more background information on activities in which national participation had been invited, to facilitate more appropriate designation of representatives.

Agenda item 6: Financial statement

The Secretary expressed hope that country arrears would continue to be reduced through increased country hosting and sponsorship of regional activities.

Agenda item 7: Other matters

It was agreed that the offer of Grenada to host the next Plenary meeting would be accepted.