COUNTRY PRESENTATION: ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

By: Peecheeta Spencer

Current Three Year Plan 2006 - 2009

Antigua has benefited from two (2) workshops namely:

- Professional Development of Educators held in Singapore in March 2007 and
- Life Skills Workshop held in Trinidad & Tobago in June 2007.

Outcomes

Institutions are developing the capacity to offer online courses as participants at the PDE workshop are taking responsibility for training of staff. Teachers in various institutions in Antigua and Barbuda are being trained to convert current face to face courses for online delivery. This is particularly important to the Department of Teacher Education at the Antigua State College as our mandate is to fast track the training of teachers to ensure that all teachers in the system become certified, registered teachers by year 2010.

This particular exercise will also enhance our ability to increase access to current and new programmes.

Antigua State College is also collaborating with regional institutions to share courses developed for online delivery.

The Life Skills Workshop has provided an instructional approach to the delivery of one of the electives in the Department of Business. This has the potential for use not only in the College programme but in Programmes developed specifically for the training of Youth Workers. Further developments will be noted after the meeting with the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC). The CYPCC will be establishing new standards for the training of Youth Workers and will be developing programmes leading to the award of a diploma, first and master's degrees.

Three-Year Plan 2009 - 2012

Priorities for this period include:

- Guidance and Counselling

- Training of teachers in Technical and Vocational Education in both content and pedagogy:

    - Building Construction
    - Electrical/Electronics
    - Automotive
    - Cosmetology.

- Building the capacity Educational Broadcasting Unit to independently produce audio and video materials. This will enhance the service the wider public, visually impaired and special needs persons as well as provide relevant teaching materials to teachers in General Education.

- The training of IT Technicians is critical

- Agricultural practice and production.