

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

In facilitating the final session, Mr Richard Bourne summarised the main findings and outcomes of the meeting.

He said that HIV/AIDS was a particular issue for the Commonwealth, as explained in Professor Kelly's keynote address. On the first day of the symposium, participants heard presentations that explored research on teacher mobility, recruitment, migration and retention. They considered issues arising from case studies involving teachers recruited within the Commonwealth and examined the cases of six Anglophone African Commonwealth countries. The second day focused on the impact of HIV/AIDS on education and the teaching profession; researchers from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and the Caribbean shared findings on the extent to which HIV/AIDS has reversed progress towards the achievement of the goal of Education for All.

Mr Bourne then made a number of suggestions for the future:

- ◆ The results of the symposium should be presented in a report to ministers of education at the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers. The proposal should be that a minister, possibly the Minister of Education of Mozambique, tables the report at 17CCEM.
- ◆ Education International might wish to consider its own role in carrying forward the outcomes of the symposium through the forthcoming CCEM and the Teachers' Forum to be held in mid-June 2009.

- ◆ Singapore was identified as a possible location for the fourth research symposium; Mr Bourne proposed teacher retention and induction as a possible theme for this meeting.⁵

Other participants mentioned the value of the research symposia that the Commonwealth had organised over the last three years. The idea was to continue the series of symposia so that issues such as gender and its impact on teacher migration could be explored in greater depth. Suggestions about the way forward included a proposal for an assessment of the impact of HIV/AIDS among teachers in the Caribbean, as this was one of the five key working areas of EI's EFAIDS programme. EI advised that its regional office in the Caribbean would be carrying out research among teachers in the region.

Commonwealth Secretariat and EI representatives then brought the session to a close by expressing gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Culture of Mozambique, the Mozambique National Union of Teachers, Education International, the Commonwealth Teachers' Group, and all the Chairs and researchers who had contributed so fully to the content and success of the symposium.

On the third and final day of the symposium delegates made field visits to the Matola Teacher Training Institution and a local primary school. The visits were followed by a press conference at the Pestana Rovuma Hotel to which local media were invited.

5 Within a week of the conclusion of the third Commonwealth Teacher Research Symposium, in response to a press item about the event circulated in the Commonwealth news media, an offer was received from the National Education Association, one of the largest teachers' unions in the USA, to host the fourth symposium in Washington, DC in 2009.

References

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