

NATIONAL REPORT - TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

REPORT ON CARIBBEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SCIENCE RELATED ACTIVITIES

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Foreign Secretary Caribbean Academy of Sciences

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Rio De Janiero

The Academy takes an active part in the following CAS/IANAS activities.

Science Education

Capacity Building for Young Academics

Water

With this as our focus, we have organized training courses for our Primary and Secondary School Teachers from the Region as part of the Femcidi programme.

Jamaica - Policy Conference

Grenada - Primary School Teachers' Workshop. The Caribbean Academy of Sciences saw the urgency in addressing teaching methodologies for science and introduced the inquiry based science education - (IBSE) method at its 1st Primary Science Teachers' Workshop held on October 9-10, 2008 in Grenada. This methodology has proven to stimulate interest in science as it engages students' curiosity and helps them to build on their ideas.

Guyana - Secondary School Teachers' Workshop. In continuation of the thrust to assist teachers in the region CAS hosted a workshop for secondary school teachers and educators from 8-9th October 2009 in Guyana. This workshop was hosted by NCERD and opened by His Excellency President (ag) – Mr. Samuel Hinds. The workshops focused on the following themes:

Learning science/mathematics through design activities

Arguing engineering designs in whole class settings

Thinking with hands, eyes, ears and signs

Learning as you build: integrating science and mathematics in innovative designs

Learning science and mathematics in design communities

Learning to teach science and mathematics as inquiry

It is hoped that follow up workshops would focus on:

(i) Assessment methods and strategies training in keeping with the IBSE/PBL in schools.

(ii) Web based tools and strategies training to further implement Inquiry Based Science Education.

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(iii) Creating a new curriculum for primary school teachers using IBSE.

Teachers Visit to Canadian Schools – Teachers from Trinidad, Guyana, Grenada and Jamaica were able to visit Edmonton to get a first hand look at the ISBE methods in schools there.

Conferences in which our scientists can share the results of their research. This includes young Scientists for whom we have the competitive TWAS/CAS Young Scientist Award

Young Academic sent to Latin American to a meeting which focused on accessing of Funds for Research.

Water Managers sent to Brazil for interaction and policy matters in Water Management.

Activities in the countries following the workshops:

Guyana:

The Primary Science Workshops formed part of the output of the first primary science workshop coordinated by the Caribbean Academy of Sciences held in Grenada in October 2008. This workshop emphasized the inquiry based approach in the teaching of science. These workshops were planned through the National Centre for Educational Resource Development – NCERD, Ministry of Education, Guyana. Ten (10) Primary Science workshops were completed to date. The Primary Science Curriculum is being reviewed to identify science activities that can be adapted using this method of teaching.

St. Lucia – Teacher's Report

I have been successful along with my colleagues, in convincing my Principal to first, conduct a 'Teaching Science Using the Inquiry Approach' professional development session with teachers on staff at my school and then secondly to allow teachers at my level to specialise in specific subjects areas for Grade Five. Indeed, I was able to see the results of using the Inquiry Based Learning methodology in Science more frequently, because of being able to specialize. There was a pass rate of approximately 90%, as compared to the 60% pass rate of the previous term.

Additionally, along with Mrs. Stanislaus and Mr. Singh, a series of workshops were organised and successfully delivered in all the eight education districts on island, reintroducing the Inquiry Approach and presenting new developments and ideas for facilitating Science learning in schools. These sessions were very enlightening and well appreciated by the participants.

Grenada – Teacher's Report

I submitted a full report to the then Chief Education Officer Ministry of Education as it relates to the overall outcome of the workshop and its relevance in the system. It was taken into consideration by the Chief and the Curriculum Development Officer responsible for science. Since the installation of the new Chief Education Officer

Ministry of Education about 3 months ago, the concept of ISBE has been embraced by the Ministry and there will be some measure of implementation that will be embarked upon. However, my school has begun the process of its implementation through the Science Department who took the initiative to launch it. Thank you for your support and the conscious effort being made to develop the education sector across the Caribbean.

Conclusion

Taking note of the successes so far, the Caribbean Academy hopes to find funding to have a Primary School Teacher's Workshop in the Northern Caribbean In November 2010. The Selected Island for the proposed workshop is Antigua from November 10 to 11 2010.

Date	Title	Location	Attendance
22 January 2009	Primary Science Workshop for Regions 3 and 4	NCERD	96%
7 May 2009	Primary Science Workshop (In collaboration with Ms. Girwar)	Region 3 – Kawall Primary	100 %
June 4, 2009	Primary Science Workshop – Thomas Moore and Central Primary	Thomas Moore Primary	90 %
June 19, 2009	Primary Science Workshop – Interactive Based Science Education	Planned for Anna Regina Multilateral	77 %
November 12, 2009	Georgetown Grade 4 Teachers	NCERD	96 %
November 13, 2010	Georgetown Grade 5 Teachers	NCERD	96%
November 24, 2010	IBSE Method presented to Head Teachers (Primary) Region 2	Resource Centre - Region 2	100 %
April 23, 2010	Region 10	McKenzie Primary	96 %
May 24, 2010	Staff Development Session – St. Margaret's Primary	St. Margaret's Primary	100 %
June 16, 2010	Planned for Region 7	Resource Centre - Region 7	

June 17,
2010

Planned for Region 6

Region 6 Resource Centre



Winst. A. Mellowes

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June 4th 2010