

**CARIBBEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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DOVER CONVENTION CENTRE**

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I first of all wish to apologize for the absence of the Principal and Deputy Principal who are at this time attending University meetings in Jamaica. However, the Vice-Chancellor, Principal and Deputy Principal send their special warm wishes to you and hope that the Conference will be the success that has been anticipated.

The University is at this time deeply involved in its development programme for the decade ahead. This involves a loan of some 10 Million Dollars from the CDB and some 50 Million Dollars from the IDB.

Much of the emphasis in this development is focussed on expanding the facilities of the University in Science and Technology. There will be a significant strengthening of the capacity of all three Campuses to meet the urgent and growing need for the scientific and technology development of the Caribbean region. It is clear to us at UWI that our international competitiveness as a people will depend upon our ability to acquire the required skill to compete as equal in the world market of goods and services.

The decade ahead will see major changes within the Caribbean region. The region as a whole will be moving from being a primary producer in Agriculture to developing and expanding our Agro Industries and manufacturing capacity. We will be moving from being a small exotic tourist centre to an internationally competitive tourist destination. We will be moving into the arena of technology based consumer goods. We will be competing on the open market for international trade in services within the GATT framework.

To meet these needs, it is clear that human resource development must be of pivotal importance to policy makers regionally, sub-regionally and nationally. Thus, the University of the West Indies, our premier regional academic institution, must play a central role in the future development of the Caribbean region.

Scientists will be critical to meeting the many areas of need in any proposed regional development strategy. The formation of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences 4 years ago (1988) is a welcomed move at this time in the history of our social and economic

evolution as a people. Therefore, this Third Meeting of the Academy, which clearly indicates that the momentum continues, is a most important regional conference

In 1986/87 UWI enrolled 2,054 graduates in the Natural Sciences. This increased to 2,481 by 1988/89 and it is targeted that this figure should be at least 3,370 by the year 2000. In 1986/87 we enrolled 583 students in Engineering. This increased to 815 in 1988/89 and it is expected to reach 1,500 by the year 2000. In 1986/87 UWI enrolled 548 students within the Faculty of Medical Sciences. This increased to 821 by the year 1988/89 and is projected to approach 1,470 by the year 2000.

Thus, the University has a major expansion programme in the scientific disciplines on its immediate agenda. In order to meet this objective, it is necessary that UWI receives the support of the members of the Academy who are actively involved in teaching and research. It is hoped that as the Academy grows its membership will continue to help to shape the future of the University in producing graduates of high quality, armed with the necessary skills relevant to meeting the technological requirements of the Caribbean and for making it a region with international competitiveness. But if Science and Technology is to succeed in bringing us into the 21st Century, developments in Physical Sciences must be supported by similar advances in the Social Sciences and Management Studies.

We need to understand and control the social and cultural environment in which we live, to adapt technology to the peculiarities of our region, and, to manage, develop, and expand, our human and natural resources efficiently. Thus, close working relationships must be struck between the Caribbean Academy of Sciences, our various Institutes of Social and Economic Research, and our Institutes of Management, etc.

But growth and development is an active process. And an important catalyst for this process is research. Research is essential for providing an understanding of ourselves and our environment and for controlling, changing, and directing human development.

Hence an important agenda item for the Academy is an analysis of and the provision for wide ranging research programmes within the Caribbean. The Academy has, as a major responsibility to West Indian people, to ensure that research is expedited, is relevant, is problem oriented, is developmental, and that it assures a rapid technology transfer to meet the urgent needs of these changing times.

I hope that the Academy will grow from strength to strength and that the relationship with UWI will continue to be useful and productive. Again, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Organizing Committee, Members of the Academy, and participants of this Conference, I extend the very best wishes to you from the University of the West Indies at this, your Third Annual General Meeting.