

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN EDUCATION

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In September 1967 the first formal meeting of the Regional Council for Education was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The Faculty of Education of Haile Selassie I University was represented by Ato Abebe Bekele and Ato Zaudneh Yimtatu. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the university Departments of Education and Institutes of Education in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

The September meeting of the Regional Council was preceded by a series of working party meetings which began in August, 1967. At these early meetings a number of areas were identified in which it was hoped there could be regional co-operation in research. These areas included examination testing and assessment, child growth and development, programmed instruction, education and handicapped children, radio and television education, and the teaching of science, languages, mathematics and agriculture.

One of the objectives of the Regional Council is to facilitate a general exchange of information on research and activities in the various member institutions so that the results of developments in one institution can be quickly shared by the others. The Council will encourage meetings of educational specialists in the region to explore solutions to common problems and will identify educational activities which merit the establishment of special units or centers to serve the whole region.

The Regional Council for Education holds its own semi-annual conferences and maintains an office in Nairobi (P.O. Box 5869). In December, 1968, the Council's Executive Secretary, Mr. Richard Abrams, visited Addis Ababa to discuss with members of Haile Sellassie I University and the Ministry of Education the ways in which the work of the Regional Council might benefit Ethiopia.

Progress has already been made in the region toward establishing a testing resource and training center, developing a co-ordinated research program on child growth and development, determining the projected requirements of each member institution in teachers of the handicapped, and exchanging information regarding developments in programmed learning and radio and television education. The Council is also considering launching a regular publication to further facilitate the distribution of research results and other information among the member institutions.