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SAARC tech body lists areas of cooperation

The second meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Education ended in Dhaka Tuesday identifying three new areas of cooperation in the field of education among the member states, reports BSS.

The new areas of cooperation to be incorporated in the activities for 1991 will be in the field of upgrading the quality of education, environmental and population education and distant education.

Chairman of the meeting and Education Secretary ANM Yusuf, briefing newsmen on the outcome of the three-day deliberation, said discussions were also held on co-operation in the field of universal primary education, literacy programme and continuing education.

The meeting observed that the member countries could be immensely benefitted through the exchange of experience in those fields, Mr Yusuf said.

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, the three-day meeting was attended by representatives of all the SAARC countries.

It was decided that Sri Lanka will hold a workshop in the field of upgrading the quality of education in August, 1991, while Pakistan will host a meeting on environmental and population education in October next

year. India will host a workshop on distant education in February, 1991.

While reviewing the progress of implementation of the decisions taken in the first meeting of the committee, held in Dhaka in August 1989, the meeting observed that out of seven activities, one in each country, four had already been completed.

The activities earmarked for 1990 include expert groups meetings on science and technical education in and education for underserved areas or groups to be held in Pakistan and Bhutan respectively in October and an expert group meeting on modernisation of curriculum, to be hosted by Dhaka in December.

The meeting heard country papers on the state of development of education in the respective countries and also reviewed the status of the SAARC chair fellowship and scholarship scheme. It was observed that progress with regard to the fellowship and scholarship scheme was not satisfactory. However, the members agreed that the scheme should be implemented in right earnest.

The representatives of the SAARC countries described the deliberations of the meeting as "fruitful" and thanked Bangladesh for hosting the second meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Education.