



## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

### SUMMARY OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

#### SUPPORT FOR A SEAMLESS EDUCATION SYSTEM

#### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, TESTING AND EVALUATION AND SPANISH AS THE FIRST FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The Government of Trinidad, in its effort to reform and modernize the primary education system through support for a seamless education system awarded the above consultancy to a team of educators from the Simon Fraser University. The team comprising Dr. Don Northey, Dr. Lorna Bennett, and Dr. JoAnn Canales worked over a period January 2007 to August 2007.

The objectives of this consultancy were to examine the following three areas and make recommendations for improvement in each one.

1. **Curriculum and Instruction:** review the current primary curriculum, including implementation strategies and supporting structures with a view to improving articulation with other levels in the system.
2. **Testing and Evaluation:** analyse current testing and assessments practices in the school system and assess the capacity and identify training needs and resources required to implement a more effective assessment system.
3. **Spanish as the first foreign language:** review the status of the initial introduction of Spanish as the first foreign language at the primary level and identify support systems for its continued implementation.

The findings and recommendations of this consultancy provided the basis for the development of new proposals by the Ministry of Education to the IDB for further funding and implementation of follow up projects in reforming the education system.

Each of the above areas was investigated using the following organizers: curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and evaluation, structural organizational factors, resources and role of teachers. Data was collected through observation, document analysis, individual interviews and focus group meetings.

Findings: It was suggested that in order to modernize the education system the following characteristics must be valued and any review would speak to the following built in characteristics:

- Student centered
- Activity based
- Teacher as professional
- Engagement of various stakeholders
- Integration of technology
- Transaction/transformation paradigms
- Constructive approach
- Assessment for learning
- Global interdependence

**Title of the document:**

Summary of the Simon Fraser University Report: Support for a Seamless Education System- Curriculum and Instruction, Testing and Evaluation and Spanish as the First Foreign Language.

**Date:** September, 2007

**Credit:** Dr. Don Northey, Dr. Lorna Bennett, and Dr. JoAnn Canales

**Classification:** Report