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THE SEVENTH ARAB CULTURAL CONFERENCE
ISSUES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Seventh Arab Cultural Conference has stressed the need for establishing and consolidating educational planning machinery in Arab countries.

The Conference which held its closing session at the Arab League Premises this morning also called for the set up of demographic statistical organs to fulfil the requirements of educational planning for data, information and specifications as well as a machinery for educational statistics and another for documentation.

The Conference was inaugurated on March 6 by El Sayed El Dardiri Ahmed Ismail, the League's Assistant Secretary General.

Dr. Joseph Zaarour, Leader of the Lebanese Delegation was elected Chairman of the Conference, the Heads of other delegations were elected vice Chairmen while Dr. Salah Koth, member of the United Arab Republic delegation was elected rapporteur.

The Conference underlined the need for specifying the objectives of educational planning in the light of the targets of the comprehensive development plan and the desired rates of production increase.

It called for coordination between immediate and long-term projects in the educational planning and for making education available to the increasing number of children who have reached the age of compulsory education.

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On the education of girls, the Conference demanded equal opportunities particularly in the stage of compulsory education.

It also recommended that the plan covers educational welfare for children under the age of compulsory education and that it should reinforce and develop the potentialities of higher and university education in such a way as to fulfil Arab countries' requirements for the various types of technical leaderships demanded by the continued growth in the spheres of production and services.

Pointing out that the financial potentialities of some countries cannot meet the expenses of the various educational demands especially after the spread of free and compulsory education, the Conference recommended that the educational plan takes into account the important role which can be played by private education in the achievement of its objectives. To reach this end, the Conference stated, technical and human potentialities should be made available to this sector provided this private education is subjected to the goals of the state and should be coordinated within the framework of the general educational plan.

Other recommendations adopted by the Conference relate to expansion in scientific and technological education, the planning of educational curricula, the financing of educational plans and the training of those concerned with educational planning.

The closing session of the Conference had opened at 10 a.m. Dr. Joseph Emarour, the Chairman thanked the drafting committee for its efforts in drafting ^{the} recommendations of the conference.

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Addressing the meeting, El Sayed Mohamed Taha El Nemr, Director of the Arab League Cultural Department said that the Conference discussions have shed light on the problems of educational planning in Arab countries thus providing practical solutions.

These discussions, he added, have revealed the importance of such planning and the need that it should be based on scientific research, economic studies, educational statistics as well as adequate administrative systems and financial potentialities.

The cooperation of economy, sociology and education experts and the coordination between their spheres of activity is a necessary step for a national planning which takes into consideration the social and economic development in our Arab countries, he went on.

The Cultural Department Director pointed out that if the Conference's recommendations are put into effect they would help draw up an educational policy that serves the objectives of the social and cultural policies pursued in our countries linking the various stages of education with the employment opportunities and developing human values which can contribute to the liberty of the Arab homeland and improvement of its living standard.

The modern concept of education, he said, underlines its impact on economic and social development. It is in proportion with sound educational planning that the objectives of our developing society are realised, he affirmed adding that the conference's work was characterised by sincere endeavour to step up educational cooperation and illuminate the path of educational unity between Arab countries.

Concluding El Sayed Taha El Nemr emphasized the impact of cooperation in the spheres of education, culture and science on the preservation of Arab rights and the development and progress of the Arab society.
