

## Auckland hosts conference 2007



**More than 600 leading experts, opinion formers and practitioners in local government from all corners of the Commonwealth will meet in Auckland, New Zealand for the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007.**

Heads of government, ministers with responsibility for local government, local government mayors, city leaders and councillors, private sector representatives and civil society representatives are attending the fourth Commonwealth Local Government Conference, which will take place from 26-29 March 2007 at the Aotea Centre in Auckland, New Zealand's city of sails.

The conference, run by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and this year hosted by the New Zealand government, will look at how local government can provide leadership to deliver development, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and will highlight some of the recent innovations in community leadership in New Zealand and across the Commonwealth. The discussions will help delegates to take back new ideas and developments to improve services in their own countries and councils.

Speakers at this high-profile event

include **Rt Hon Helen Clark**, Prime Minister of New Zealand, **HE President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**, President of Uganda, **Hon Edward Lowassa**, Prime Minister of Tanzania, **HE Rt Hon Don McKinnon**, Commonwealth Secretary - General, and Ministers for local government from across the Commonwealth.

**Prof Jeffrey Sachs**, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University and Director of the UN Millennium Project will speak from New York by live video link.

Issues that this conference will discuss include:

- What is meant by local leadership, and what can be done to support councils in providing local leadership for their communities
- How strategic local leadership can create strong thriving communities and tackle poverty, crime, HIV/AIDS and other issues and deliver development.
- Local government's response to

global issues such as disaster management and climate change.

"As well as delivering key services, local councils also provide strategic leadership for their communities," said CLGF Chair Hon Mayor Robert Montague.

"This community leadership role is increasingly recognised not only in promoting the well-being of citizens, but in tackling global issues such as disaster management, meeting the Millennium Development Goals, climate change and poverty.

"This is a unique international conference that brings together leading local government policy makers and practitioners from every corner of the Commonwealth. I am looking forward to meeting all our colleagues," he said.

Hon Mark Burton, Minister of Local Government New Zealand is hosting the conference with support from Basil Morrison, President of Local Government New Zealand.

■ The conference background paper, *Delivering development through local leadership in the Commonwealth*, will be available on the conference and CLGF website: [www.clgf2007.org](http://www.clgf2007.org) and [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk).

## Transforming societies

The theme for this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is 'Transforming Commonwealth societies to achieve political, economic and human development', Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon announced on 5 January 2007.

Commenting on the theme, President Museveni said: "In the Commonwealth we have some excellent examples of countries which have transformed and modernised their societies politically and economically. It is an experience we want to see replicated throughout the Commonwealth. I hope this CHOGM will develop an action programme for achieving accelerated political, economic and human development in our member nations."



President Yoweri Museveni

## Peer review pilot first phase completed

CLGF's international peer review process aimed at strengthening local democracy and good governance is set to be rolled out as a model for other countries following the successful pilot work in southern Africa. A workshop was held in November involving partners from Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe to consolidate the work done so far, and a further workshop will be held in Lusaka, Zambia in June to look at how the peer review mechanism could be disseminated for use in other countries.

# Commonwealth news in brief

## Lesotho elections

A Commonwealth expert team observed Lesotho's parliamentary elections which took place on 17 February 2007. The team observed preparations for the elections, polling, counting and results processes and will report their results to the Secretary General Don McKinnon.

CLGF Board member Hon Pontšo Sekatle was reelected to the government.

## Fiji suspension

Fiji has been suspended from the Commonwealth following the military coup in December pending the restoration of democracy and the rule of law in the country. In a statement issued after an extraordinary meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the Harare Declaration (CMAG) in London, UK, on 8 December 2006, the group "unanimously and unequivocally condemned the military takeover of Fiji's democratically-elected government.

Membership of CLGF by the Ministry of local government is therefore suspended. However, other democratically elected local government bodies, including the Fiji Local Government Association, remain as CLGF members.

## Respecting differences

Commonwealth Day was celebrated on 12 March. This year's theme was *respecting differences, promoting understanding*. The theme reflects issues and discussion of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding which is chaired by Amartya Sen and met in December. CLGF has submitted its views to the Commission which will report its finding to CHOGM.

## Access to quality education

The Commonwealth education ministers' meeting was held in Cape Town in December. The theme of the meeting was Access to Quality Education: for the Good of All. Cllr Graham Lane from the London Borough of Newham, UK attended the meeting on behalf of CLGF.

The winners of the Commonwealth Education Good Practice Awards were announced at the Closing ceremony. Nine Finalists from seven Commonwealth countries were selected for the awards.

Generation of Leaders Discovered (GoLD) Peer Education was the overall winner. Gold Peer Education is a Youth Development model that addresses the behaviours and beliefs that are at the root of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic among young people, while at the same time preparing for the leadership crisis that is being precipitated by the disease. The project is being implemented within 150 schools where over 7500 young people are being developed as peer educators.

# A great opportunity

## Secretary-General's introduction



Our meeting in the Auckland will be the fourth time that Commonwealth local government has come together at a major CLGF event since 2000. With more than 600 participants registered, including many senior mayors, councillors, ministers and officials, this will be the biggest and hopefully best CLGF gathering to date. I am particularly pleased that President Museveni, Prime Minister Lowassa and our host Prime Minister Clark will be present, together with our CLGF Board members and other VIPs, including Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon, who is a close friend of local government. We are also excited at the participation of Prof Jeffrey Sachs from New York by live video-feed.

CLGF conferences are unique not only in their representative character - bringing together all spheres of

government, including, on this occasion many state/provincial ministers and officials - but also that they feed directly into Commonwealth decision-making at the highest level. The outcomes of Auckland, once they have been agreed by the CLGF General Meeting of members, will be presented for consideration and endorsement to Commonwealth Heads of Government when they meet later this year in Kampala. We look to Prime Minister Clark and our other patrons to ensure that the Auckland outcomes are taken forward at the CHOGM.

Our conferences are also great opportunities for networking and bilateral and other meetings. My one regret is that conference duties often prevent me from having as much contact with individual delegates as I would like, but I know that this is more

than made up for by the many interactions that will take place between delegates and other CLGF staff and with CLGF Board members.

New Zealand is a great place to learn about local government leadership - not only individual leadership by mayors or councillors, but elected councils demonstrating vision and leadership for their communities. I would like to thank the New Zealand councils who are hosting more than 50 Commonwealth colleagues before the conference for their generosity and enthusiasm: a great opportunity for practitioners to meet and learn from each other.

Auckland promises to be another key milestone for CLGF. I look forward to meeting you there!

Carl Wright, Secretary-General

## Pacific seminar on ACP-EU Cotonou agreement

**A seminar on local government's role in implementing the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement was organised in Suva, Fiji on 23-24 November 2006. The seminar was organised by ACP Local Government Platform in conjunction with CLGF and with support from the Department for International Development, UK.**

The seminar brought together representatives from the EC, National Authorising Officers, ministries of local government, mayors, local government officials and other stakeholders from the Pacific.

The event helped to raise awareness of the Cotonou Agreement and the opportunities for local government in its implementation. Consideration was also given to the development needs of local government in the region and the

importance of national and regional associations of local government to provide a voice for local government.

Roberto Ridolfi, Head of EC Delegation for the Pacific, said that the meeting was timely, given the importance the EC is giving to governance and the EC's full recognition of local government as a distinct important actor in development cooperation.

## St Marys plans a prosperous future

The St Mary Partnership Strategic Development Plan was launched during the final visit of representatives of St Mary Parish, Jamaica to Leeds in February to review the project.

The plan is the result of a two year exchange of good practice funded by the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme. Officers and representatives from Leeds City Council and the Leeds Initiative have worked with partners in St Mary, Jamaica to

develop a vision for the Parish of St Mary from 2006 to 2026. The parish has a population of some 100,000 and is one of the poorest council areas in Jamaica. The strategy has been put together following a community consultation process of the kind used by the Leeds Initiative in drawing up the *Visions for Leeds*.

"Our vision is that St Mary will be a secure, enterprising and prosperous community where all our citizens can

create for themselves 'the Jamaican Dream'," the Mayor of St Mary, Robert Montague, said. "We are grateful to our colleagues in Leeds for sharing with us their experience of developing a vision."

The project has also led to additional benefits, such as school partnerships between St Mary and Leeds, sowing the seeds for long-term friendships and making the connection sustainable.

# New help for Honiara

**A NZ\$4.46 million project to strengthen Honiara City Council's management capacity and processes and to improve service delivery has been given the go ahead.**

The Honiara City Council project, the latest phase of CLGF's institutional capacity building programme with Honiara City Council, has just been given formal approval by NZAID.

The City Council is in a state of transition following the tensions of 2000-2003, and is keen to improve its management systems and service delivery for its rapidly growing population. The project will focus on strengthening the council's management capacity and processes, improving essential service delivery, developing a coordinated approach to urban planning and promoting good governance and local democracy.

Using the Good Practice Scheme approach, the project will draw on the experiences and expertise of practitioners from across the Pacific region, including through the partnership which the city has with Maryborough City council in Australia, and through Local Government New Zealand building on the support already given by Kapiti Coast District Council.



Honiara City Council.

In addition to Honiara City Council and CLGF, the project brings together a broad cross section of other stakeholders, including the Department of Home Affairs, other government departments, and civil society. The partners held a start-up workshop in Honiara in February 2007 to refine the work plan and to set the strategic

direction for the forthcoming year.



## Vadodara vanishes waste

**Birmingham City Council and its counterpart in Gujarat, India, the Municipal Corporation of Vadodara, have been working together on a CLGF Good Practice Scheme project to upgrade and implement waste management in the Indian city. Both cities have a population of over 1 million people—which means a lot of waste.**

With support and advice from Birmingham, which has extensive experience of managing waste disposal, Vadodara has implemented a weekly door to door collection of household waste across 90 per cent of the city's residential areas. From the initial pilot start up, when open-back trucks toured the city streets somewhat haphazardly

in the hope that people would bring out domestic waste in response to the sound of a whistle being blown, has emerged a fairly sophisticated collection service.

This citywide service is now robust and reliable. Major quantities of rubbish are now collected on a regular basis and residents know when waste is

to be collected. The neighbourhoods are cleaner with fewer environmental eyesores and fewer rodents.

The final stage of the project extends waste management to include a recycling element. Although a major task, it is hoped a partnership between citizens and the Corporation can lead to the introduction of domestic recycling.



## News in brief

### Urban plans must include poor

Urban plans must be inclusive and include poverty alleviation and adequate housing for poor people and the informal sector, according to CLGF Board member Kumari Selja, India's Minister of State for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Minister Selja was speaking at the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements held in New Delhi in December and opened by Indian Pressdient Dr A P J Abdul Kalam.

The meeting, jointly organized by UN-HABITAT and the Indian Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, was aimed at tackling shelter problems in a part of the world that is home to two-thirds of the global slum population. CLGF Secretary General Carl Wright also attended the conference.

### Malawi plans local elections

The Malawi government has confirmed its intentions to have local elections in 2007.

A delegation from the CLGF, the Commonwealth Secretariat and United Cities and Local Governments Africa met with the Government of Malawi in November 2006 to talk about re-establishing local elections following earlier commitments by the government and are urging the government to hold the elections before 30 June next year as already agreed by the Malawi parliament.

The Scottish Executive is offering support for a Programme for Building Effective Local Governance and Democracy in Malawi through CLGF. However, CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright said that the programme, which will involve capacity-building, technical support and international partnerships between Malawi councils and other councils in the Commonwealth, cannot be fully implemented until the election of local councillors.

Malawi first held local government elections in 2000 when it started a decentralisation programme. These council assemblies were disbanded in 2005.

### Advice for Mauritius reforms

CLGF honorary treasurer and former director of the UK Local Government International Bureau, Mike Ashley visited Mauritius on behalf of CLGF in November and January to advise the government on the implementation of the local government reforms. The 2003 Local Government Act in Mauritius allows for the current system of village and district councils to be abolished to allow the creation of a uniform system across the island.

### DFID secondment

Gareth Aicken has been seconded to CLGF from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for three months to work on exploring areas of cooperation between CLGF and DFID including the next phase of the UK-funded part of the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme. Phase two of the Good Practice Scheme has been extended to December 2007 to allow all the current projects to be completed. CLGF has submitted proposals for a new five-year programme for the Scheme.

## What's on..

### March 2007

- 26 **CLGF Board meeting**, Auckland, New Zealand
- 26-29 **CLGF Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007 on Delivering Development through Local Leadership**, Auckland, New Zealand; [www.clgc2007.org](http://www.clgc2007.org)
- 29 **CLGF General Meeting**, of members, Auckland, New Zealand, including election of CLGF Board for 2007-09
- 30 **CLGF Board**: meeting of newly elected board, Auckland, New Zealand

### June 2007

**CLGF African peer review workshop**, Lusaka, Zambia (tbc)

### July 2007

**CLGF workshop on gender**, Goa, India (tbc)

### October 2007

- 28-31 **UCLG 2nd World Congress**, Jeju, Korea

### November 2007

- 19-22 **2007 Commonwealth People's Forum**: Realising people's potential, Africana Hotel, Kampala, Uganda, <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/governance-democracy/peoplesforum/2007cpfi/index.cfm>

### November 2007

- 2-25 **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**, Kampala, Uganda. Transforming Commonwealth Societies to achieve political, economic and human development, [http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/158470/transforming\\_commonwealth\\_societies\\_\\_is\\_theme\\_of.htm](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/158470/transforming_commonwealth_societies__is_theme_of.htm)

For further information on CLGF events, please contact [lorna.nicholas@clgf.org.uk](mailto:lorna.nicholas@clgf.org.uk) or visit [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk)

## Joining CLGF



Membership of CLGF is open to local councils, local government associations, ministries with local government portfolio in the Commonwealth. Academic and other relevant institutions may join as associate members.

Your members and staff can all benefit from your organization becoming a member of CLGF:

- information about CLGF activities and events
- discounts for CLGF conferences and events, including the Commonwealth Local Government Conference
- have access to CLGF's wide network of members and contacts in local government
- have access to CLGF research studies and publications
- have access to CLGF's expert database
- be eligible to apply to work with partners in other countries on technical and capacity building projects
- be part of an international network promoting local government and democracy throughout the Commonwealth.

For further information go to the CLGF website [www.clgf.org.uk/index.cfm/pageid/49/Joining](http://www.clgf.org.uk/index.cfm/pageid/49/Joining) + CLGF or e-mail [dzifa.tay@clgf.org.uk](mailto:dzifa.tay@clgf.org.uk).

If you are attending the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007, visit the CLGF stand to find out about special rates if you join during the conference.

# Pacific progress

**Significant progress has been made towards achieving the objectives of the CLGF Pacific project which works with local government and other stakeholders in the Pacific region to strengthen local democracy and improve service delivery.**

A meeting of the CLGF Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) was held in November to review progress and to develop the work plan for the forthcoming year: an extensive programme of councillor training is underway, using the UN-Habitat Local Elected Leadership Training programme, and the partners are about to pilot a new UN-Habitat financial management training

programme. Training has also been provided to local government managers in Papua New Guinea who are developing their professional association and work has also been done on approaches to ward profiling. The Good Practice Scheme is growing and now includes a partnership between Local Government New Zealand and the Fiji Local Government Association.

The project has also brought about a greater level of regional cooperation among local government in the Pacific. It has also facilitated cooperation and partnership with other regional stakeholders and raised the importance of local government and the issues being faced by local government with regional institutions and organisations such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

## The CLGF Board

### Members:

#### Africa:

Mayor John Wycliffe Karazaarwe, President, Uganda Local Government Association

Cllr Josiah Magut, Chairman, Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya\*

Hon Pontšo Suzan Matumelo Sekatle, Minister of Local Government, Lesotho

Hon Sydney Mufamadi, Minister of Provincial & Local Government, South Africa\*

Hon Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, Executive Chairman, Association of Local Governments of Nigeria

Mayor Winstanley R Bankole Johnson JP, Freetown City Council, Sierra Leone\*

Hon Stephen Asamoah-Boateng, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana

Hon Emmanuel Edou, Minister of Local Government and Administration, Cameroon\*

#### Americas:

Mayor Hon Robert Montague, Association of Local Government Authorities, Jamaica Chairperson<sup>+</sup>

Charles Gregoire, Deputy Chairman, Dominica Association of Local Authorities\*

Hon Alfred Gray, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government, Bahamas<sup>+</sup>

Hon Mike Browne, Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Local Government and Gender Affairs, St Vincent and the Grenadines\*

Mayor Murchison Brown, Chairman, Trinidad & Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities

Mayor Zenaida Moya, President, Mayors Association, Belize\*

Hon Dean Peart, Minister of Local Government, Environment and Sport, Jamaica

#### Asia Pacific:

Basil Morrison, President, Local Government New Zealand<sup>+</sup>

Cllr Paul Bell, President Australian Local Government Association\*

Hon Mark Burton MP, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand (Vice Chairperson)<sup>+</sup>

Hon Jim Lloyd MP, Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Australia\*

Hon Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, India

Dato Ahmad Fuad bin Ismail, Secretary-General, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia\*

#### Europe:

Cllr Ken Bodfish OBE, Local Government Association, UK

Dr Ian Micallef LLD, President, Local Councils of Malta\*

Phil Woolas MP, Minister for Local Government and Regions, Department of Communities and Local Government, UK

Dr Lazaros Savvides, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Interior, Cyprus\*

#### Members at large

Father Smangalis Mkhathswa, President, United Cities and Local Governments Africa (Vice Chairperson)<sup>+</sup>

Mayor Matheus K Shikongo, City of Windhoek, Namibia

#### Associate members

Dr Jatin V Modi, President, All-India Institute of Local Self-Government, India

Dr Bishnu Ragoonath, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago\*

Prof P S Reddy, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

Graham Sansom, Director, Director, UTS Centre for Local Government, Australia\*

#### Co-opted members

William Saunders, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, UK

Yasmine Laroche, Assistant Deputy Minister, Cities and Communities, Infrastructure Canada

#### Ex-officio

Michael Ashley, Honorary Treasurer, UK<sup>+</sup>

Carl Wright, Secretary General<sup>+</sup>

Len Duvall OBE AM, Greater London Authority, UK Past chairperson

John Otekat MP, Uganda, Immediate past chairperson

\* alternates

<sup>+</sup> member, Sub-Committee on Finances and Membership

## Clgf staff

### CLGF Headquarters, based in London, UK

Secretary-general

PA to SG

Senior policy adviser

Policy and research adviser

Project officers

Membership and personnel officer

Finance Manager

Communications consultant

Carl Wright

Lorna Nicholas

Lucy Slack

Randal Smith

Jake Allen, Rahima Begum

Dzifa Tay

Sam Tekyi-Berto

Sue Rhodes

### CLGF Pacific office, based in Suva, Fiji

Regional adviser

Senior project officer

Project officer

Project assistant

Terry Parker

Karibaiti Taoba

Ted Lulu

Letila Naqasima

### CLGF project officers

Project coordinator, Africa

Project coordinator, India

Nyasha Mawakomatanda

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