

## Making cities inclusive



**How cities can be inclusive is the theme of a CLGF seminar being held in New Delhi in April and opened by Minister Kumari Selja, Minister of State [Independent charge] for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.**



The seminar, *The Inclusive City* – a Commonwealth perspective, is being hosted by the India Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and will take place in New Delhi on 16 April.

Other speakers will include: Mayor M D Sharma, president of the All-India Council of Mayors; Hon Sidney Collie, Minister of Lands and Local Government, The Bahamas; Hon James Burty-David, Minister of Local Government Mauritius; Lord Hanningfield, UK Local Government Association; Basil Morrison, Local

Government New Zealand; and Mayor Zenaida Moya, Belize.

Making cities more inclusive is a major challenge for local government across the Commonwealth. Migration and urbanisation is a big issue for local government across the Commonwealth, as more and more people move from rural areas to the cities. This seminar will look at how cities can respond to the needs of the whole community to ensure access to basic services as well as wider economic opportunities through training and jobs.

Looking at India's approach to achieving inclusive cities, the seminar will look at good practice, at common themes and issues across the Commonwealth and how the Commonwealth can provide cooperation and support in the future to help achieve inclusive cities.

"Local government has an essential role in providing a voice for marginalised communities and responding to their needs so that we meet the goals of making our cities more inclusive," said CLGF chairperson Basil Morrison.

### Good art to promote good governance

Winners of the 2007 Pacific Urban Art Competition were announced at a public exhibition of the winning entries hosted by Suva City Council at the Suva Civic Centre in November.

The competition is organised by the Fiji Department of Local Government and supported by CLGF's Pacific project and designed to encourage greater community interest in the visioning and planning of cities and towns in Fiji. The project has also produced a 2008 calendar featuring many of the winning entries and an on-line web gallery has been created by the Fiji Local Government Association ([www.flga.com.fj](http://www.flga.com.fj)).



Winning entry in the youth category was from Song Ji Choi of Gospel high school for Triangular Multi-Culture.

### Tapping into training in the Pacific

The Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) of the CLGF Pacific Regional Capacity-Building Project met for their annual meeting in Suva in November 2007. The members, representing the eight project countries and other relevant regional organisations and international partners, discussed project progress and developed the work plan for 2008/09. A major focus of this will be leadership training for elected councillors.

TAP members also attended two workshops – one looking comparatively at local government legislation in the region, and the other to consider the parameters for a study into the relationship between local government and traditional leadership in the region. These studies will report back at the next TAP meeting which will be held in Samoa, hosted by the newly elected TAP chair Maulolo Tavita, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry for Internal Affairs, Samoa.

## CHOGM reaffirms support for CLGF's activities

**Commonwealth Heads of Government have reaffirmed their support for the *Aberdeen Principles on Good Practice for Local Democracy and Good Governance* and encouraged member states to implement the *Auckland Accord*.**

The CHOGM, which met in

Kampala in November 2007, also welcomed CLGF's collaborative work with the Commonwealth Secretariat in strengthening local government and improving local democracy.

The CLGF delegation comprised CLGF Chairperson Basil Morrison, CLGF Secretary-General Carl

Wright, Uganda Local Government Association President John Karazaarwe, and CLGF former chair John Otekat MP.

CLGF also formally presented a statement to Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, who met before the CHOGM, and had a number of individual meetings with heads of government and ministers.

## Commonwealth news in brief

### Commonwealth and climate change

At their recent biennial meeting in Uganda's capital, Kampala, in November 2007, Commonwealth Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to combating climate change.

Heads adopted the 'Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan,' in which they restated their support of the 1989 'Langkawi Declaration on Environment.'

This Declaration - which marks the first time Heads defined their environmental concerns - acknowledges the "serious deterioration in the environment and the threat this poses to the well-being of present and future generations."

### Action to protect environment

In her Commonwealth Day message this year HM Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, said that all actions which help protect the environment can "have a real and positive effect on the lives of others."

She highlighted the Nile River, as an example which illustrates many of the challenges facing the global environment as a whole which cannot alone sustain our lives as once it did.

She urged more support for young people, who are energetic and able to confront climate change. She added that governments, businesses, communities and individuals should each strive to "match words and good intentions with deeds."

### ICT helps areas affected by tsunami

In August 2006, Commonwealth Connects launched an initiative to assist individuals whose lives were devastated by the Asian Tsunami. Some 200,000 people died or disappeared and a further 2 million left homeless by the tsunami, which struck on 26 December 2004.

The project - Rebuilding after the Tsunami: Using ICTs for Change - uses information and communication technology (ICT) such as the internet to help people in affected areas rebuild their lives and their communities.

### Sharma is new Commonwealth Secretary-General

Kamalesh Sharma, India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, is the new Commonwealth Secretary-General. He will take office on 1 April 2008. His appointment was announced by outgoing Secretary-General Don McKinnon during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala in November.

"It is an honour and privilege to serve this great institution," said Mr Sharma.

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright met with Mr Sharma in January to welcome him and brief him on CLGF's work and joint activities with the Secretariat.

## Putting local democratic principles into practice Secretary-General's introduction



The Commonwealth can be a powerful force for democratic values not only among its own members, but worldwide. CLGF is the designated Commonwealth organisation for local government and we work closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and other partners to promote local democracy and good governance, whether it is in Fiji, Kenya, Malawi, the Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone or St Lucia or other countries where we have members.

Our priority is to ensure that the Aberdeen Principles - and subsequent policy such as the Auckland Accord - are given practical effect. The formal expression of support for CLGF's efforts to promote good democratic practice by 53 Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Kampala in November is important to us and our members for

putting the Aberdeen principles into practice.

This, and the fact that they specifically urged CLGF to 'continue its work in strengthening the role of local government in Commonwealth societies', will give added political impetus to our drive to ensure implementation of the Commonwealth Aberdeen principles and systems for assessing how a country is matching up to these principles.

We are working closely with our local, central and provincial/state government members to ensure that international principles on local democracy and CHOGM mandates have real impact on the ground and that local government continues to be strengthened in all our societies. This has included the development of a system for assessing how the principles have been implemented in a particular country, one

that we piloted in Uganda and presented to Heads of Government at their meeting. We are also publishing a tool-kit for assessing the health of local democracy using international peer reviews, which developed out of CLGF's work in Southern Africa.

CLGF also cooperates with the UN and other international partners and takes an active interest in the promotion of democracy in countries such as Zimbabwe, with its long-standing Commonwealth links.

We have been fortunate in the strong support we have received from the Commonwealth Secretariat, in particular former Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon, and we look forward to working equally closely with his successor, HE Kamalesh Sharma.

Carl Wright, Secretary-General

## Pacific drive for local government

### The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) are combining their efforts to meet the challenges that face local governments in the Pacific region.

In acknowledgment of the important role of local government in achieving shared goals, the two organisations have decided to enter into a formal cooperation agreement. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to give effect to this agreement was signed last December.

Pacific Island states are undergoing systematic growth and development accompanied by an accelerated pace of urbanisation. The PIFS and CLGF believe that there is need to raise the stakes in respect to local government in the Pacific; to improve quality of life in the towns and cities; to exemplify good governance and to develop local

governments that exhibit creativity and integrity, have the confidence of the communities they serve and deliver best possible services.

Local government in the Pacific region operates in a changing and uncertain environment. Challenges such as rapid urbanisation with its inherent increased management responsibilities, decentralisation, high expectations from the citizens, resource constraints, service delivery and implementation gaps, good governance, citizen participation and community mobilisation, remoteness, political volatility and effective working relationship with traditional structures

all add to the strategic management and decision making responsibilities of local leaders.

"To meet these challenges the Commonwealth Local Government Forum has developed a local government capacity building programme targeting the Pacific Islands to strengthen good governance within councils across the region," said CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright.

"CLGF looks forward to enhancing the already well-established working environment with PIFS."

"The Pacific Plan enhances and stimulates economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security for Pacific countries through regionalism," said PIFS Acting Secretary-General Peter Forau.

## Local democracy peer review toolkit

### The CLGF Democracy Enhancement Project has tested innovative peer review methods for local councils to measure and improve local governance.

The pilot project, which was funded by the EU and the UK, was undertaken in

Zimbabwe in 2003-07 in association with the Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe and 10 individual councils and counterparts outside the country such as Durban and Windhoek.

The project has produced a toolkit to help other authorities wishing to carry out

similar peer reviews of their councils. The toolkit *Local Government International Peer Review toolkit* will be available from CLGF publications or can be downloaded from the CLGF website

<http://www.clgf.org.uk/index.cfm/pageID/80/Toolkits>

# CLGF partnership programme brings tangible benefits

**The third phase of the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme is about to start following confirmation of £2.1 million funding by the UK Department for International Development.**

The third phase will build on the two previous phases, focusing on mobilising local government capacity to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The new phase will support 34 projects. Pakistan and Sierra Leone will be new countries included in the Scheme in addition to the four countries involved in phase 2: Ghana, India,

Jamaica, and South Africa. The projects will be partnership-focused, with local partners involved as well as the international and inter-regional technical links with authorities in the UK or in other developing countries in the same region. The national local government associations will have a key role in disseminating the good practice developed by the projects.

Officials and councillors in the local authorities and local authority associations and ministries responsible for local government have been involved in the design of the programme and will take part in the selection of the projects working with CLGF and its network of Commonwealth local governments.

Prime Minister Bruce Golding reiterated Jamaica's commitment to local government when he spoke at the recent Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme dissemination seminar in Kingston, Jamaica in February. He said that local authorities should have dedicated and secure resources to carry out their responsibilities, with a clear separation between local and central duties.

The Scheme has been working with a number of local authorities in Jamaica on projects around revenue generation and strategic planning.

This was the final dissemination seminar for phase two of the Good Practice Scheme.

## Jamaica seminar rounds off phase 2



Jamaica Prime Minister Bruce Golding (right) with Robert Montague (left), Jamaica's Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government Reforms and Carl Wright, Secretary-General of CLGF at the seminar in Jamaica

## Improving the state of relations in Nigeria

**State-local government relations should be positive and proactive; information, participation are paramount in intergovernmental relations and local authorities in Nigeria should receive a percentage of oil revenues, according to the recommendations from a recent seminar.**

Newly-elected local government leaders met in Abuja, Nigeria from 17-19 March to discuss some of the key issues they face including intergovernmental relations, fiscal transfers from central government and

the role of the local government association.

### Local experts

The participants, mostly state chairpeople from the 18 states that have recently had local elections, and representatives from Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) parliament and civil society, heard from their counterparts from a number of countries including Ghana and South Africa and local experts.

The seminar was run by CLGF following discussion held in Abuja in November 2007 with the Association of

Local Governments of Nigeria and a request by the Presidency to hold a national policy seminar on these issues.

Local democracy in Nigeria dates from 1999 following the transition to civilian rule. The seminar was the first opportunity for the new councillors to meet each other and with federal government and other partners.

The recommendations that came out of the seminar will help to strengthen local government by improving relations between local, state and federal government in the future and helping to define and strengthen and ALGON's role.

## News in brief

### CLGF welcomes Kenya settlement

The CLGF warmly welcomed the political settlement agreed in Kenya at the beginning of March following the initiative led by the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"We urge all the parties concerned to ensure that the agreement is fully implemented and provides the basis for a lasting political, social and economic reconciliation," said CLGF Chairperson Basil Morrison.

"CLGF hopes that the new political settlement will address the vital role of local government and decentralise governance structures in nation-building, in line with the Commonwealth principles on good practice for local democracy and good governance.

"We are ready to provide, as appropriate, support and expertise to our members in Kenya to take forward the promotion of local democracy and good governance," he said.

### Asia democracy project develops

The CLGF Asia Local Democracy project is now underway. Following a meeting in Mumbai in October a number of India-based training institutions have begun the research. Former UN-Habitat officer Dinesh Metha from the University of Ahmedabad has been appointed to coordinate this work. The research focuses on local governance and democracy training in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to identify where there are weaknesses so that training modules can be designed to support future training for elected mayors and councillors.

### Canadian boost for Caribbean

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is supporting the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers which was set up following a CLGF regional symposium in Jamaica in 2004. CIDA is contributing C\$500,000 to help kick-start the work and develop a longer-term programme. A meeting was held in Barbados in March to discuss the work programme being developed by the Commonwealth Regional Adviser to the Caribbean, Winston Cramer, to support the Forum.

### City openness

City openness was the theme of a recent British Council seminar in Madrid. CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright spoke at a panel session on the role of international institutions and intergovernmental bodies. Welcoming the general idea of open cities and the work of the British Council project, he warned that developing countries had to be considered differently to take into account the effects of rapid urbanisation and out-migration.

## Publications



### Measuring up to the Aberdeen Agenda

*Meeting the challenges of the Aberdeen Agenda: and assessment of local democracy and good governance in Uganda* is published by CLGF and available on the CLGF website. The report gives an overview of how Uganda has been implementing the principles in the *Aberdeen Agenda* and develops a methodology to analyse the state of local democracy in the country.

## What's on..

### April 2008

- 14-18 **CLGF seminar on The Inclusive city- a Commonwealth Perspective**, New Delhi, India
- 15 **CLGF Policy and Resources Committee meeting**, New Delhi, India

### September 2008

- 1 **CLGF Policy and Resources Committee meeting**, Vancouver, Canada
- 2 **CLGF Board meeting**, Vancouver, Canada
- 3 **CLGF seminar on Financing for urban infrastructure**, Vancouver, Canada

- 16-17 CLGF symposium on **Access to Development Funding for Local Governments in Africa**, in partnership with DMA, Johannesburg, South Africa

### October 2008

- 19-22 **CAPAM annual conference**, Bridgetown, Barbados

### November 2008

- 3-7 World Urban Forum, Nanjing, China

For further information visit [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) or contact: [info@clgf.org.uk](mailto:info@clgf.org.uk).



Commonwealth Local Government Conference

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Bookings made and paid for before 30 November 2008 will receive a 10 per cent discount. Groups of six or more may also receive a discount if registered early. Please contact CLGF for details.

[www.clgf2009.org](http://www.clgf2009.org)

## PM Ingraham launches 2009 conference

**Rt Hon Hubert Ingraham, Prime Minister of the Bahamas** announced the **Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2009** is to be held in Freeport in May 2009 at a launch for captains of industry and other local government partners.

He invited the private sector and others to show their backing for local government by supporting the event, the first time the conference has been held in the Caribbean.

Bahamas Local Government Minister Sidney Collie, Robert Montague, Minister of State for local government from Jamaica, Mayor Murchison Brown from Trinidad and Tobago, City of Freeport Chief Councillor Anita Doherty, CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright and other CLGF officers along with representatives of Microsoft, BTC, the Port Authority and other major companies from Grand Bahama and the region, attended the launch in Freeport on 8 February.

The 2009 Commonwealth Local Government Conference is being hosted by the Bahamas Ministry of Lands and Local Government and will be held at

Our Lucaya Conference Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama from 10-14 May 2009. Further details can be found on the conference website



## The CLGF Board

### Members:

#### Africa:

- Mayor Amos Masondo, Chairperson, South African Local Government Association
- Leonard B Bihondo, Chairman, Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania
- Francisco Mabjaia, Secretary-General, Association of Local Government, Mozambique (*alternate*)
- Hon Dr James Burty David, Minister of Local Government, Mauritius (*Vice Chairperson*) +
- Hon Emmanuel Edou, Minister Delegate, Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Cameroon
- Hon Sylvia Masebo, Minister of Local Government, Zambia (*alternate*)

#### America:

- Mayor Zenaida Moya, President, Mayors Association, Belize (*Vice chairperson*)
- Mayor Murchison Brown, Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities
- Charles Gregoire, Chair, Dominica Association of Local Authorities (*alternate*)
- Hon Sidney Collie, Minister of Lands and Local Government, The Bahamas +
- Hon Kellawan Lall, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Guyana (*alternate*)
- Hon Minister Robert Montague, Minister of State for Local Government, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica +
- Hon Michael Browne, Minister of Social Development, St Vincent and the Grenadines (*alternate*)

#### Asia-Pacific:

- Basil Morrison, President, Local Government New Zealand (*Chairperson*) +
- Clr Paul Bell, President, Australian Local Government Association (*alternate*)
- Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand
- Hon Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development Local Government, Australia (*alternate*)
- Hon Kumari Selja, Minister of State, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India +

Mrs Manorama Dobriyal Sharma, President, All India Council of Mayors, India

#### Europe:

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- Dr Ian Micallef LLD, Local Councils of Malta (*alternate*)
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- Father Smangalis Mkhathswa, President, United Cities and Local Government of Africa
- Clr Philip McPhee, President, Bahamas Local Government Association

#### Associate members:

- Dr Graham Sansom, UTC Centre for Local Government, Australia +
- Dr Jatin V Modi, President, All-India Institute of Local Self-Government, India (*alternate*)
- Dr Bishnu Ragoonath, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
- Professor P S Reddy, University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa (*alternate*)

#### Co-opted members:

- Hon Kwadwo Adjei-Darko, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, Ghana
- Lord Mayor Ratu Peni Volavolva, Suva City Council, Fiji
- Simon Baker, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, UK (*Honorary treasurer*) +
- John Forster, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Cities and Communities Infrastructure Canada
- Minister Hope Mwesigye, Minister of State for Local Government, Uganda

#### Ex-officio:

- Carl Wright, Secretary-General +
- John Otekat MP, Past Chairperson

+ member, Policy and Resources Committee