



Kenny Fick, Provincial Executive Manager (Gauteng), Department for Labour; Malcolm Smith, Executive Director for Regeneration, London Borough of Lewisham; Karuna Mohan, Executive Director for Local Economic Development, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality; Malusi Kekana, Chief Executive of the Umsobumvu Youth Fund at the project launch.

Ekurhuleni jobs partnership

The kind of joint-working that the CLGF Good Practice Scheme fosters is to influence national policy in South Africa it was announced at the launch of the Ekurhuleni-Lewisham Good Practice Scheme project. This pilot project will eventually be rolled out throughout Ekurhuleni and the wider Gauteng Province and could become a model for similar schemes elsewhere. From a local government perspective, this is a unique opportunity to not only deliver for the Ekurhuleni community, but to also play a role in shaping service delivery for many other communities in South Africa.

The Ekurhuleni-Lewisham project, *Improving the economy of Ekurhuleni through employment*, was launched on Wednesday 25 October at the Benoni Labour Centre in South Africa. As well as being the result of joint working between Ekurhuleni and Lewisham in job brokerage, skills development and business engagement, the project has also brought about a new partnership

between local and national government in South Africa. Lewisham and the wider London sub-region has, over the years, experienced high levels of unemployment, skills shortages, declining investment and low levels of business competitiveness. These challenges are also very familiar to Ekurhuleni. It has taken many years for local authorities, public agencies and

businesses in the UK to get to the point where they are today.

■ An external evaluation of the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme commissioned by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) has praised the positive outcomes of the Scheme and recommended that the programme is continued and strengthened.

The review was undertaken in Ghana, India, Jamaica and South Africa which have been the focus countries for the second phase of the UK-funded part of the Scheme. CLGF is now preparing a detailed bid to DFID for continued funding for the scheme.

NZ PM becomes CLGF patron

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark has agreed to become an honorary patron of CLGF to assist with promoting CLGF's messages to Commonwealth Heads of Government and other international and national forums. She is the third head of government who has agreed to be an honorary patron, and joins President Museveni of Uganda and Most Hon Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica who are also patrons.

Prime Minister Clark will be a keynote speaker at the opening of the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007 in Auckland, New Zealand (see back page for details).

Melbourne is newest member

Melbourne City, the capital of Victoria state in Australian, is CLGF's newest local government member. The City of Melbourne oversees Melbourne's city centre and several inner suburbs.

Other recent new local government members include three councils in India – the Kalyan Dombivali Municipal Corporation, the Nagpur Municipal Corporation, and the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

CLGF also welcomes two local government associations - the Bahamas Association of Local Authorities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities - who recently joined CLGF as have three ministries - the Maldives Ministry of Atolls Development, the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Local Government, and the Tuvalu Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development.

"We are very pleased to welcome these new members" said CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright.

"This increasing membership shows the impact that CLGF is having and that local governments, local government associations and ministries are recognising CLGF's valuable work in promoting and supporting local democracy and good local governance throughout the Commonwealth. We look forward to working with all our new members."

Councillor training on local democracy in South Asia

Councillors in South Asia will be among the first beneficiaries of the UN Democracy Fund, thanks to an award won by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), the UN has announced.

The project will use CLGF's *Aberdeen Agenda* to shape a series of training modules for elected

councillors and will be based in India. A multi-disciplined team from the Commonwealth will develop the modules which will give practical examples through case studies and explore the role of the elected representative and help councillors understand the principles of effective local

democracy and good governance and how this relates to local accountability.

The first beneficiaries of the new UN Democracy Fund were announced on 30 August by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Further information at www.un.org/democracyfund.

Commonwealth news in brief

Zambia elections reflect people's wishes

Following the recent Presidential, national and local elections in Zambia in September, the Commonwealth observer group said it believed that, as a whole, conditions existed in Zambia for a free expression of will by the electors and that the results of the elections reflected the wishes of the people.

"We congratulate the people of Zambia for their determination to exercise their democratic rights. They have embraced democracy with a zeal that augurs well for the country's future stability and prosperity," it said in a statement after the elections.

Connecting the Commonwealth

A new Commonwealth initiative to bridge the deepening digital divide across member countries was unveiled by Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon in London on 3 August 2006.

Known as Commonwealth Connects, this programme promotes development in information and communication technology (ICT) among member countries, particularly least developed countries and their communities. The aim is to facilitate local, regional and international linkages through the worldwide web that will enhance access to information, networking opportunities and electronic commerce.

Commonwealth Connects focuses on five specialised areas: building policy and regulatory capacity; modernising education and skills development; entrepreneurship for poverty reduction; promoting local access and connectivity; and regional networking, local content and knowledge.

Joining CLGF

Whether you are from an organisation involved in local government in a developing or developed country, a ministry, association or council seeking assistance, or a ministry, association or authority with particular expertise, your members and staff will benefit from belonging to CLGF. As a member of CLGF you will:

- receive information about CLGF activities and events
- be eligible for CLGF conferences and events, including the bi-ennial 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, and
- be eligible to apply to work with partners in other countries on particular 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 + CLGF or e-mail dzifa.tay@clgf.org.uk

Capacity building in local government

Secretary-General's introduction



The Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme - the technical partnership skills exchanges between Commonwealth local governments organised by CLGF - has, to date, supported exchanges between more than 50 councils and local government associations in some 20 countries. It has been highly effective in promoting skills transfer, increasing councils' capacity and expertise and addressing key development issues as was shown by three separate external evaluations undertaken by the main funding agencies (AusAID and DFID) since 2000, the most recent of which has just been completed.

The evaluations also highlighted the considerable spin-off individual projects are having in encouraging wider community-to-community links as well as raising development awareness as can be seen in the case study of the link

between Leeds and Durban, published as a special supplement to this Bulletin.

Following the latest evaluation, we welcome the support that UK Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn MP, has expressed for a further phase of the Scheme and look forward to an announcement on this shortly. The CLGF is also in discussion with its development partners in the Pacific to expand the scope of the Scheme in that region. The new phase of the Scheme will, in addition to exchanges between developed and developing countries, have a higher proportion of 'south-south' exchanges between developing countries, especially on an intra-regional basis: a key objective of our Commonwealth network.

We welcome the fact that development agencies such as DFID, AusAID and NZAID are recognising the

importance of local government capacity-building and are confident of CLGF's ability to deliver in this area. Likewise it is encouraging that CLGF is receiving support from the UN and a range of other partners, including being among the very first recipients of funding under the new UN Democracy Fund as reported in this Bulletin.

We hope that we can make similar progress in achieving partnerships with other agencies, especially the EU where the CLGF is working with UCLG Africa under the umbrella of the ACP Local Government Local Government Forum.

Much is being achieved by CLGF, much equally remains to be done: A new and expanded phase of the Good Practice Scheme will make an important contribution.

Carl Wright, Secretary-General, CLGF

Managing change in local governance

Managing Change in Local Governance, by Dr Andrew Nickson and Dr Munawwar Alam is a new publication from the Commonwealth Secretariat that explores the reasons for decentralisation changes, and applies recent thinking in change management to the particular challenges facing all those who are seeking to make their local governance

systems more responsive.

Written by internationally renowned experts from the International Development Department at the University of Birmingham, UK, and advisers at the Commonwealth Secretariat, *Managing Change in Local Governance* looks at the key drivers for change in local government, and at the factors

which those implementing change need to take into account to ensure success.

For further information contact the Commonwealth Secretariat or their website

http://publications.thecommonwealth.org/publications/html/DynaLink/pub_id/411/pub_details.asp.

African Ministers discuss decentralisation

Local government and decentralisation ministers and senior officials from 28 African countries met in Maseru, Lesotho from 30-August to 1 September to look at ways of improving citizens' participation in local decision-making, decentralized governance and poverty reduction.

The conference, whose theme was Strengthening Competencies for participatory Planning and Budgeting for Effective Delivery of Local Services, was hosted by Lesotho Minister of Local Government and CLGF Board member Hon Pontšo Sekatle and organised by

the Municipal Development Partnership Eastern and Southern Africa regional Office (MDP-ESA) in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Capital Development Fund and the UN Development Programme.

Speaking at the conference, CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright said that there are interesting examples in Africa of citizen participation in local decision-making, such as the work in fighting HIV-AIDs in Uganda and Zambia. He said that CLGF is seeking to work with members in African countries to take forward the Commonwealth principles on local democracy and good governance.

Devolution landmark for Pakistan

Pakistan has made impressive steps forward in decentralisation and local government reform according to speakers at a recent symposium on Strengthening Decentralisation in Pakistan and the Commonwealth. It is also taking on board the principles in CLGF's Aberdeen Agenda to improve local governance in the country.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz of Pakistan called on local governments to be more transparent and accountable. These reforms were needed to strengthen political, administrative and financial decentralisation, he said on 24 July 2006 at the opening of the symposium in Islamabad.

"We face many challenges. These include strengthening of local institutions, enabling them to mobilise local resources and making them financially sustainable, eliminating overlaps, building planning and implementation capacity, institutionalising transparency as well as accountability of local governments and improving training strategy," said Mr Aziz.

Addressing an audience of senior local government practitioners, academics and ministers from across the Commonwealth, he said that the devolution of political, administrative and financial authority to representative and accountable local governments has been a major landmark in Pakistan's history.

"The focus of our efforts should be to build local governments that are smart, effective and dynamic to deliver to their customers - the people of local areas," he said.

Other speakers at the symposium



Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz of Pakistan speaking

included CLGF Chair Mayor Robert Montague, and Board members: Ken Bodfish, Local Government Association, UK; Hon Mark Burton, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand; Father Smangalis Mkhathshwa, President of UCLGA; Basil Morrison, President of Local Government New Zealand; and Phil Woolas MP, Minister for Communities and Local Government, UK.

The symposium was jointly organised by CLGF, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the National

Reconstruction Bureau of Pakistan (NRB) which is responsible for implementing the country's decentralisation reforms. It was held in Islamabad from 24-27 July 2006.

As part of the symposium, the NRB published a document outlining Pakistan's progress in response to CLGF's *Aberdeen Agenda*. The publication: *Local Government System in Pakistan and the Aberdeen Agenda* outlines the system in Pakistan in relation to each of the principles in the *Aberdeen Agenda*.

The objectives of the symposium were to share the local government reform experience in Pakistan and its impact on development, poverty reduction and governance and look at progress against the CLGF's *Aberdeen Agenda*. In the concluding statement participants welcomed the Pakistan innovations for empowering people at

local level, including the reservation of funds for Citizen Community Boards, reservation of seats for women and inclusion of minority groups, and the establishment of institutions with membership from civil society such as local government and public safety commissions. It also noted the commitment of the Government of

Pakistan to ensure the success of local government by addressing the challenges and constraints encountered in implementing the new system of devolution, through strengthening democratic institutions, training, capacity-building, civic education and ensuring appropriate checks and balances.

The full statement can be seen at www.clgf.org.uk/index.cfm/pageid/182/Statements

News in brief

Africa focus

Some 5,000 delegates from Africa and elsewhere attended the 4th Africities summit in Nairobi from 18-22 September. The Summit was opened by HE President Kibaki of Kenya and focused on implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the impact of urbanisation in Africa.

Speaking at a plenary session chaired by Local Government Minister Musikari Kombo, CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright highlighted CLGF's long-standing and more recent work in Africa, including local election monitoring and the recent *Kampala Agenda for African Local Government*.

MOU with UCLG Africa

CLGF has signed a memorandum of understanding with United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLGA). The memorandum, signed by CLGF Chair Mayor Robert Montague and UCLGA President Father Smangalis Mkhathshwa, sets out areas of cooperation in joint activities, symposia, programmes to promote democracy and good governance, and strengthening local government capacity and skills exchange within Africa.

Regional adviser for Caribbean

A local government regional policy adviser for the Caribbean will be appointed with the support of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. The adviser will be based at the Ministry of Local Government Jamaica and will work on activities to strengthen local democracy and local government capacity in the Caribbean.

Malaysia ministry meeting

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright met with Board member Dato Ahmad Fuad bin Ismail, Secretary-General of the Malaysia Ministry of Housing and Local Government and ministry officials to give a briefing on CLGF activities in October.

World solidarity against poverty

The world record for the most people to Stand Up Against Poverty in 24 hours was set on 15 - 16 October 2006 for the United Nation's Millennium Campaign when a massive total of 23,542,614 people in 11,646 events around the globe stood up to show their solidarity with the Millennium Campaign.

Stand Up is part of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty month of mobilisation around The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

CAPAM Conference

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright attended the biennial conference of the Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), where he spoke about local government responses to disaster planning and management with special reference to the 7/7 terrorist attack in London. The conference, held in Sydney from 21-25 October, elected Hon Geraldine Fraser as the new CAPAM President.

Mr Wright also attended the subsequent first-ever Commonwealth Ministers' Forum on Public Sector Development, on 26-27 October, on behalf of CLGF.

What's on..

- November 2006**
- 14 **CLGF European members meeting**, Avonmouth House, London, UK
- 14 **CLGF reception**, at the House of Lords, London. Launch of *Obtaining a Municipal Credit Rating* publication
- 15 **CLGF Sub-Committee on Finances and Membership**, 16a Northumberland Avenue, UK
- 20-21 **CLGF Pacific Project Technical Advisory Panel meeting**, Suva, Fiji
- 22-24 **CLGF Pacific regional seminar**, on local government role in implementation of ACP/European Union Cotonou agreement, Suva, Fiji
- 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
- 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

For further information on CLGF events, please contact lorna.nicholas@clgf.org.uk or visit www.clgf.org.uk

Capacity building in Kiriritimati



Councillors and trainers who attended the workshop.

Kiritimati, or Christmas Island in Kiribati - one of the most remote locations in the Pacific region - is the latest area to benefit from councillor training as part of the CLGF Pacific Project. Christmas Island is 3,250kms from the Kiribati capital, Tarawa, and 2,150kms from Hawaii.

Local leadership training is one of the key capacity building activities of the CLGF Pacific Project. The programme, carried out by four CLGF/UN Habitat qualified trainers from the Kiribati Ministry for Internal and Social Affairs, was attended by 32 councillors from

Christmas, Washington and Fanning Island Councils, all part of the Line and Phoenix Group. Some participants travelled three days on a cargo ship to reach the training venue.

The three-day training from 19 to 21 October was part of a joint initiative between the Kiribati Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs, UNDP Sustainable Decentralised Governance Project and CLGF Pacific Project.

The programme was officially opened by the Minister for Line and Phoenix Group Development, Hon Tawita Temoku.

Give us some credit

CLGF is publishing a research paper on *Obtaining a Municipal Credit Rating* in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

"The rapid urbanisation taking place in many countries places particular demands on infrastructure development, and this requires substantial capital expenditure" said CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright.

"The booklet shows how councils can access finance from the private sector and how well-regulated local government borrowing can make a substantial contribution to developing domestic financial markets".

The booklet, written by Barry Jackson of the DBSA, is a practical guide to the value and uses of municipal credit ratings and provides some examples of good practice. It is published by Publications UK for CLGF. A copy will be sent free to every CLGF member organisation. Further copies are available for £20 to cover postage and administration from CLGF, 16a Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5AP, or can be downloaded from the CLGF website www.clgf.org.uk.



Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007

26-29 March 2007,
Aotea Centre, Auckland, New Zealand

A **three-day international conference** on strengthening local leadership to promote sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

Speakers include:

- Rt Hon Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand
- HE President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda
- Most Hon Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica
- Hon Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta and Chairperson-in-Office of the Commonwealth (tbc)
- HE Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General
- Dr Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat (tbc)
- Prof Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University and Director of the UN Millennium Project
- Ministers for local government from across the Commonwealth
- Mayors and other local government leaders

The theme of the 2007 Commonwealth Local Government Conference will be **delivering development through local leadership**.

The conference offers:

- a unique opportunity for local government leaders, ministers, senior officials and practitioners to meet, exchange ideas and learn about good practice
- a range of plenary sessions, breakaway groups and study visits
- an opportunity to learn about good practice and innovations in other countries and councils including study visits to New Zealand councils
- a full programme of social events
- a conference exhibition showcasing products, partnerships and innovations.

A CLGF conference hosted by the New Zealand Government, in association with Local Government New Zealand and Auckland City.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.clgc2007.org

The CLGF Board

Members:

Africa:

- John Wycliffe Karazaarwe, President, Uganda Local Government Association, Uganda
- Clr Josaih Magut, Chairman, ALGAK, Nairobi, Kenya (Alternate)
- Hon Pontšo Suzan Matumelo Sekatle, Minister of Local Government, Lesotho
- Hon Sydney Mufamadi, Minister of Provincial & Local Government, South Africa (Alternate)
- Hon Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, Executive Chairman, ALGON, Nigeria
- Mayor Winstanley R Bankole Johnson JP, Freetown City Council (Alternate)
- Hon Stephen Boetang, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana
- Hon Emmanuel Edou, Minister of Local Government and Administration, Cameroon (Alternate)

Americas:

- Mayor Hon Robert Montague, Jamaica Association of Local Government Authorities, Jamaica* (Chair)
- Charles Gregoire, Chairman, Dominica Association of Local Authorities, Dominica (Alternate)
- Hon Alfred Gray, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Local Government, Bahamas*
- Hon Mike Brown, Minister of Social Development, St Vincent and the Grenadines (Alternate)
- Mayor Murchison Brown, Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities
- Mayor Zenaída Moya, President, Mayors Association, Belize (Alternate)
- Hon Dean Peart, Minister of Local Government, Community Development and Sport, Jamaica
- Hon Menissa Rambally, Minister of Community Development, Culture and Local Government, St Lucia (Alternate)
- Asia Pacific:
- Basil Morrison, President, Local Government New Zealand*
- Clr Paul Bell, President ALGA, Australia (Alternate)
- Hon Mark Burton MP, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand* (Vice Chair)
- Hon Jim Lloyd MP, Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories & Roads, Australia (Alternate)

- 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 (Alternate)
- Europe:
- Clr Ken Bodfish OBE, Local Government Association, UK
- Dr Ian Micallef LL.D., President, Local Councils of Malta, Malta (Alternate)
- 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 (Alternate)

Members at large

- Father Smangalis Mkhathshwa, President, UCLGA, Tshwane, South Africa* (Vice Chair)
- Mayor Matheus K Shikongo, Mayor of Windhoek, Namibia

Associate members

- Dr Jatin V Modi, President, All India Institute of Local Self-Government, India
- Dr Bishnu Ragoonath, Lecturer, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago (Alternate)
- Professor P S Reddy, University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa

- Professor Graham Sansom, UTC Centre for Local Government, Australia (Alternate)

Co-opted members

- Hon Chaitanya Lakshman, Minister of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlement and Environment, Fiji
- William Saunders, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, UK

- Yazmine Laroche, Asst. Deputy Minister, Cities and Communities, Infrastructure Canada

Ex-officio

- Michael Ashley, Director, Local Government International Bureau, Honorary Treasurer, UK*
- Carl Wright, Secretary General*
- Len Duvall GLA OBE, Past Chair
- John Otekat MP, Immediate Past Chair

*Member of Sub-Committee on Finances and Membership