

## What's on..

3 March 2003

CLGF Board meeting

4-6 March 2003

Commonwealth Local Government

Conference 2003 Local Government Service Partnerships, Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa

7 March 2003

General meeting of CLGF members

Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa

10 March 2003

Commonwealth Day 2003

For further information check out the CLGF website at [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) or contact CLGF on tel: +44 (0) 20 7934 9690, fax: +44 (0) 20 7934 9699; e-mail: [info@clgf.org.uk](mailto:info@clgf.org.uk).

# Scheme launch in India



CLGF Chair Len Duvall and Shri Ananth Kumar launch CLGF's Local Government Good Practice Scheme in India at the recent CLGF Board meeting in New Delhi in October.

The Scheme will enable Indian municipalities and associations of Mayors to link up with their Commonwealth

counterparts to share skills, ideas and experience and to work together on practical projects addressing decentralisation and good governance. It is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) UK.

Len Duvall said: "I am delighted to be launching this initiative together with Shri Ananth Kumar. The Scheme is an example of how the Commonwealth can share practical experiences. To date it has resulted in 60 local governments across the Commonwealth exchanging skills and good practice.

"India's involvement will strengthen our common endeavours and bring valuable examples of good practice in local self-government to our international family"

## Good Governance India 2003

The first international exhibition and conference on public services in India

18-20 March 2003-01-14 Pragati Maidan  
New Delhi  
India

[www.goodgovernanceindia.com](http://www.goodgovernanceindia.com)

Public works...municipal services...urban development

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## CLGF supports Tonga's move to local democracy

CLGF recently sent two local government experts to Tonga to advise them on setting up stronger local government as part of its modernisation programme.

Mike Reid from Local Government New Zealand and Aniel Singh from the Fiji Local Government Association were commissioned by CLGF to visit Tonga following an invitation from the Office of the Prime Minister of Tonga seeking advice on opportunities for devolving governance to the local level and identifying

ways of enhancing the structure of local government to make sure it can take on these extra responsibilities.

Their report to the government of Tonga outlines a number of options on structure, elections, representation, functions, remuneration, staffing and approaches to revenue generation.

The work is part of CLGF's support for the development of local democracy and good governance throughout the Commonwealth

Commonwealth Local Government Conference  
Local Government Service Partnerships  
4-6 March 2003 Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa



A CLGF Conference hosted by Tshwane City Council in partnership with the South African Local Government Association and the South African Government

### Keynote speakers include:

- HE Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa
- His Excellency Don McKinnon, Secretary General of the Commonwealth
- Cyril Ramaphosa, Commonwealth Business Council
- Ministers and local government leaders from Africa, Asia, Canada, Caribbean, Pacific, and Europe
- Private sector and other practitioners involved in local government service partnerships

Cost £250 to CLGF members; £350 to non-members

For further information and on-line booking look at the CLGF website [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) or e-mail us on [conference2003@clgf.org.uk](mailto:conference2003@clgf.org.uk) or fax +44 (0) 20 7934 9699

## The CLGF Board

### Chairperson:

Len Duvall OBE, Greater London Authority, UK\*

### Members:

Father Smangalisso Mkhathshwa, President, South African Local Government Association

Charles Katiza, Secretary General, African Union of Local Authorities,

Clr Peter Woods, Lgov New South Wales, Australia

Clr Jocelyne Guertin, Federation of Canadian Municipalities\*

Deputy Mayor Larel Thomas, Association of Local Government Authorities, Jamaica\*

The Hon Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana

Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Minister for Local Government and Regions, UK

The Hon Ananth Kumar, Minister for Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, India

The Hon Shanta Kumar, Minister for Rural Development, India

The Hon Matthew Walter, Minister of Community Development & Women's Affairs, Dominica

Dato Lokman Hakim bin Mohd.Jasan Secretary General, Ministry of Housing & Local Government, Malaysia

Dr Jatin V Modi, President, All India Institute of Local Self-Government, India  
Professor Michael Clarke, Pro-Vice Chancellor, The University of Birmingham, UK

### Alternates

Clr Pat Watters, President, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, UK

Clr Peter S Siyovelwa, Chairman, Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania

Col Max Ng'andwe, Local Government Association of Zambia

Clr Dr Helen Nkandi-Shiimi, President, Association of Local Authorities of Namibia

Mayor Basil Morrison, President, Local Government New Zealand

Mayor Irving John, City of Castries, St. Lucia

The Hon Wilson Tuckey MP, Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government, Australia

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

Professor P S Reddy, University of Durban-Westville, South Africa

Keith Sonnet, Deputy General Secretary UNISON, UK

Michael Ashley, Director, Local Government International Bureau, UK

Honorary treasurer\*

Carl Wright Director\*

\* Member of Sub-Committee on Finances and Membership

## CLGF focus on democracy and good governance

### Commonwealth local government leaders meet in India to agree priorities.

The promotion of local democracy and good governance, capacity building projects, and the bi-ennial Commonwealth local government conferences have been highlighted as core activities for CLGF over the next few years.

The CLGF Board agreed an exciting programme of activities for CLGF over the next few years at its meeting in New Delhi, 19-21 October 2002 and discussed the framework for the second Commonwealth Conference on Local Government Service Partnerships, in March 2003.

The Board meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. It is the first Board meeting to take place in Asia.

Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation briefed the Board about local self-government reforms in India, urban priorities such as construction of

low cost housing, and about increasing representation of women in local government. Board members welcomed the opportunity to share views and exchange ideas with the Minister, who is himself a member of the CLGF Board.

Members of the Board of CLGF also attended sessions of the FICCI Global Convention on Agenda for Urban

Infrastructure Reforms conference, which took place in New Delhi following the meeting to learn from their Indian counterparts. CLGF Chairperson Len Duvall OBE gave a keynote address at the inaugural session and other Board members - Hon Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, (Ghana), Cllr Jocelyne Guertin (Canada), Hon Sydney Mufamadi, (South Africa) and Mayor Basil Morrison, (New Zealand) - presented their own experiences of urban infrastructure development.



CLGF Board member Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation in India greets Board member the Hon Kwadwo Baah- Wiredu from Ghana at the CLGF Board meeting in New Delhi.

### Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2003:

### Local government service partnerships



2003

4-6 March 2003  
Pretoria, Tshwane,  
South Africa

### Last chance to book

See back page or visit our website  
[www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk)

### Support for local government in Nigeria

CLGF Board member for West Africa, Hon Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu and CLGF Director Carl Wright visited Abuja in December for discussions with Hon Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Kida, Nigerian Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and Mr R N Ezeife, Secretary-General, Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON). Discussions centred around current local government developments in Nigeria and it was agreed that the CLGF, in association with the Commonwealth Secretariat, would be invited to be present during the forthcoming local government elections and investigate post-election capacity support for local government. The discussions also touched on other CLGF activities and the 2003 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which Nigeria will host in Abuja in December.

## Competition hots up to host 2005 conference.

Following the endorsement of the Board at its meeting in October, CLGF launched the bidding for the 2005 conference, writing to all CLGF members inviting bids and outlining guidelines on what is required to host the conference

Hosting the Commonwealth Local Government Conference provides a

valuable opportunity for the host city and country to:

- project themselves internationally and raise their global profile
- welcome senior local government figures from across the world
- receive senior figures from major international organisations and agencies
- benefit from spin-offs for local

business and community organisations.

A number of cities in several countries have already expressed keen interest. Bids are due in by the end of January and will be evaluated during February.

The winner or a shortlist of preferred bidders will be announced at this year's Commonwealth Local Government Conference in South Africa in March.

## Commonwealth news in brief

### Web help on IT

A new Commonwealth website to assist developing member countries in bridging the digital divide was launched on 19 December. The new website, [www.thecommonwealth.org/cdo](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/cdo), forms part of the Commonwealth Action Programme for the Digital Divide, which incorporates the report and recommendations of the Commonwealth Expert Group on Information Technology, adopted at the 2002 Commonwealth summit in Coolom, Australia. This website, with comments and suggestions from members of the co-ordinating group, will be moved to [www.commonwealthdigitalopportunities.com](http://www.commonwealthdigitalopportunities.com) at the end of January 2003.

### Education for action on AIDS/HIV

In his message marking World AIDS Day on 1 December 2002, Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon reaffirmed that fighting HIV/AIDS means combating the stigma and discrimination associated with it.

"Four years ago, Commonwealth Heads of Government declared HIV/AIDS a global emergency. Today, more than ever, urgent action is needed. And effective action starts with education," Mr McKinnon stated.

"I would urge governments and policy-makers to examine existing programmes and practices and ensure that they are living up to their commitment to Commonwealth values and principles. I also call on businesses to review their policies and practices in order to ensure that persons with HIV/AIDS are not unfairly treated, discriminated against or stigmatised."

### Education ministers' meeting goes online

The official website for the 15th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (15CCEM) was launched on 13 November, in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. The website can be found at [www.15ccem.com](http://www.15ccem.com). The Conference will take place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre from 27 to 30 October 2003 and will bring together education ministers, academics, teachers, parents and young people from across the Commonwealth.

### Partners in Development

Partners in Development is the theme for Commonwealth Day 2003, which will be celebrated on Monday, 10 March. The theme reflects one of the Commonwealth's key priorities. The Joint Commonwealth Societies' Council (JCSC), which is made up of more than 20 Commonwealth organisations, announced the theme in a statement issued on Wednesday, 16 October.

## Conference keeps up the momentum

# Director's introduction

Our Conference in Tshwane will bring together senior local government leaders from across the Commonwealth and provides three key opportunities for those practitioners attending.

First, it gives them the possibility to meet with many senior colleagues and to discuss and identify innovative practices and policies in local government service partnerships. Such partnerships – be they PPPs or other forms of arrangements – provide no panacea in themselves. We must also recognise that many local governments, especially in small states, may well currently lack the capacity to enter into in-depth negotiations with external partners. This realisation in itself is an important one when deciding whether to enter into formal external partnerships.

Second, the Conference is a time when practitioners can meet with potential partners, be they from the private sector or civil society, and discuss prospective projects and investments in their own municipalities or countries.

CLGF is working closely with both the Commonwealth Business Council and the Commonwealth Foundation to ensure that senior representatives of business and civil society are present in Tshwane. There should therefore be sufficient scope for bilateral discussions with new partners.

Third, the Conference provides a chance to agree common policies and strategies on local government service partnerships and to determine policy guidelines in this area. Any policy recommendations proposed at the

Conference will be considered further by the General Meeting of CLGF members scheduled for 7 March and made available to all CLGF members across the Commonwealth. The CLGF will also take forward the report of the Conference, together with any recommendations, to Commonwealth Heads of Government when they meet in Abuja, Nigeria, later in 2003. This means that the Conference conclusions will have consideration at the highest political level and help us to keep up the momentum to ensure that local government is recognised as a key player in the Commonwealth.

Carl Wright  
Director  
CLGF



## Pacific projects press ahead

Four Good Practice Scheme projects are now well underway in the Pacific. The Scheme in the Pacific is funded by AusAID and links local authorities in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

- Cairns City Council / Lae Urban Local Level Government: Development of a waste management strategy - a two-year project to develop an integrated waste management strategy.
- Orange City Council / Mount Hagen City Authority: Development of planning and sample infrastructure - assistance in developing the planning capacity of the Mt Hagen City Authority to meet the future needs of the city.
- Townsville City Council / Port Moresby National Capital District Commission (NCDC): Development of planning capability in NCDC - a four-year project to improve the planning capability of NCDC.
- Local Government and Shires Association of New South Wales (now LgovNSW) / Papua New Guinea Urban Level Local Government Association (PNGULLGA): Development of corporate planning capacity in the association to lead development of the sector.

Project outputs will be disseminated at a National seminar in April / May 2003 where four new projects will be launched.

Meanwhile, in the DFID (UK) funded part of the Scheme, a number of projects in South Africa, all focusing on the key theme of local economic development, are being considered by CLGF, in consultation with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

A project between the Local Government International Bureau and SALGA, focusing on strengthening the organisation's capacity to manage its international work more effectively is already underway, and SALGA will play

a major role in providing support for the South African partners. This will be particularly important in the context of ensuring that the results of the Scheme projects are actively disseminated, and have an impact on national policy making, where appropriate.

In India a final draft of the framework for projects in India, which makes a strong linkage with the Urban Governance Campaign work being coordinated by UN Habitat, is complete and being considered by local coordinating partners. Once it is agreed a call for projects will be made. Rahima Begum of CLGF is attending the State Level Launch of the Urban Governance Campaign in Madhya Pradesh to

progress the framework, and projects with municipalities in the State. Madhya Pradesh is actively committed to decentralization and will be encouraged as one of the early focus states.

A mission to Ghana to finalise details of the programme there is also scheduled for 2003, and will involve detailed discussions with the national association of local government, NALAG and other key stakeholders.

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# Development needs local democracy CLGF tells expert group

Local government is a prime mover in implementing pro-poor strategies, such as those agreed at the 2002 Earth Summit, says CLGF in its submission to the Commonwealth Expert Group on Democracy and Development.

CLGF also highlighted the link between rapid urbanisation and the successful implementation of international development goals, and put the case for strategies for

deepening democracy at the local community level.

The Commonwealth Expert Group on Democracy and Development had its first meeting in London, in November 2002. The Group, chaired by Dr Manmohan Singh, former Finance Minister of India who was the architect of its economic reform programme, was established by Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon. Recognising the links between democracy and good governance on

the one hand, and poverty, development and conflict on the other, Heads of Government mandated the Group to recommend ways in which to carry forward the 1999 Fancourt Commonwealth Declaration on Globalisation and People-Centred Development.

The Expert Group will have two further meetings in 2003 and report to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2003.

## News in brief

### Meeting with Commonwealth Secretary General

CLGF Chairperson Len Duvall and Director Carl Wright met with the Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General in London in January. The meeting centred on co-operation between the CLGF and the Secretariat, notably in the promotion of democratic values and good governance where a number of joint initiatives have been agreed in the past 6 months including in pursuit of the mandate of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG). Mr McKinnon confirmed his intention to attend the forthcoming Commonwealth Local Government Conference and emphasised the importance he attached to the status of CLGF as the representative organisation for local government in the Commonwealth. There was agreement to intensify co-operation, including in respect of small states in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

### CLGF supports Sri Lanka social transformation consultation

The Commonwealth Secretariat led by The Social Transformation Programmes Division (STPD) and Political Affairs Division (PAD) are collaborating with the Government of Sri Lanka to hold a national consultation on 'Women, Men and Young people in Partnership for Sustainable Peace'. The Secretariat has held talks with the Government of Sri Lanka and is sending a planning mission to visit the country soon.

CLGF is involved in the preparation of the consultation, which will take place later this year, and will ensure that the programme is able to work through CLGF's members in Sri Lanka including Sri Lankan local authorities who are important partners in the rehabilitation process.

### Rebuilding local government in Sierra Leone

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum has had a long association with partners in Sierra Leone and is planning a mission in 2003 to work with the ministry, local government, and other key stakeholders involved in rebuilding local government in Sierra Leone, to identify areas of potential collaboration. The Commonwealth Secretariat is funding the mission. The delegation will include Lucy Slack of CLGF, James Beadle of the Local Government International Bureau, UK, and a colleague from the Electoral Commission in Ghana.

The programme of work is likely to focus on both pre and post-electoral support to municipalities. There is also interest in facilitating partnership projects between municipalities in Sierra Leone and their counterparts in other Commonwealth countries to help strengthen local capacity. Bo and Warwick, Freetown and Hull, and Hastings and Hastings in the UK, have sustained their links over many years and are keen to continue their exchange work.

## Durban festival, South Africa



The sights and sounds of Leeds, UK were taken to Durban, South Africa in a unique Leeds Week as part of a city-wide Celebrate Durban festival.

The Leeds Week aimed to show the citizens of Durban something of life in Leeds and demonstrate Leeds' commitment to its partnership with Durban. The partnership has blossomed

after receiving support from CLGF under the Good Practice Scheme.

Activities reflected the areas of co-operation between the two cities including a trade mission, environmental experts assisting with a stream clearance project in the Umlazi township of Durban, a jazz and blues band performing in gigs around Durban, a football development project delivered by Leeds City

Council, Leeds United and the British Council, Leeds and the University of Leeds. Leeds also took part in Durban's investment conference and small business fair.

A delegation representing public and private sectors from Leeds was led by Leeds Council Leader Brian Walker and Chief Executive, Paul Rogerson.

## Commonwealth clamps down on terrorists

Commonwealth Law Ministers, who met in St Vincent and the Grenadines in November, issued the Commonwealth Kingston Statement on Terrorism resolving that no Commonwealth country can be used as a safe haven for terrorists.

To this end they have amended the Commonwealth London Scheme for the Rendition of Fugitive Offenders for

extradition, to eliminate legal barriers that might otherwise preclude extradition. They also agreed new provisions dealing with extra-territorial offences which may feature in international conventions such as those on torture, terrorism and drug trafficking.

Ministers also issued the Kingston Declaration on Land and Development which noted the strong link between

the use, access to, and ownership of land and development and poverty reduction while concluding that the law must ensure that lawful access to land is promoted and protected. Ministers agreed to develop further the principles of the Latimer House Guidelines on Parliamentary Supremacy and Judicial Independence for eventual approval by Heads of Government.