



clgf

Bulletin

commonwealth LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM



CELEBRATING CLGF'S
20TH ANNIVERSARY

Promoting democratic local government

Sharing good practice

Strengthening capacity



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Local government 2030: achieving the vision #clgc2015 @Botswana

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Commonwealth News in brief

Commonwealth Lecture 2015

CLGF Patron and UNDP Administrator Rt Hon Helen Clark delivered the 17th Commonwealth Lecture at the Guildhall in London on 9 April. The theme of the lecture was *'Youth, Innovation and Sustainable Development: the Commonwealth in a post-2015 world'*. Rt Hon Clark said, "The Commonwealth's unique value has been its commitment to development, democracy, and diversity." In her speech, she also highlighted CLGF's key role in helping deliver localisation of SDGs.

Commonwealth Day celebrations

The diversity of 53 nations was reflected in the Commonwealth Day celebrations on 9 March, as the Commonwealth flag was hoisted by local community groups in countries across the globe. CLGF participated in a multicultural, multi-faith observance ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London, which was attended by children, performers and dignitaries including the Head of the Commonwealth, HM Queen Elizabeth II. The theme for this year's celebrations was *'A Young Commonwealth'*, reflecting the capacity and contribution of young people to national development, as well as the Commonwealth's status as a dynamic and innovative global network.

Heads of Governments to meet in Malta in November

The next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Malta on 27-29 November 2015. Heads welcomed the offer of Malta to host CHOGM when they met in Sri Lanka in 2013. The theme for the 2015 meeting will be *'The Commonwealth - Adding Global Value'*. CHOGM is held every two years and is the Commonwealth's highest consultative and policy-making body. Check out www.chogm2015.mt to find out more.

C O M M E N T

by **Carl Wright**, Secretary-General



CLGF was formally established in 1995 - two decades ago. In that time we have had significant achievements.

What has CLGF achieved?

CLGF has made a difference to the lives of 2.2 billion people who live in the Commonwealth by its advocacy of local democracy and good governance, its dissemination of good practices in local government through international knowledge sharing and its practical, on-the-ground technical assistance to its members, both local governments and national ministries. It has been able to do this by its emphasis on partnership between central and local government, being responsive to its members' needs, including at regional level and being results-oriented in its work. It has also, as pointed out in a past DFID evaluation, 'punched above its weight' and I constantly meet people surprised by its small but effective staff and resources.

Highlights of the past 20 years include gaining status as a Commonwealth Associated Organisation in recognition of its quasi-governmental nature and significant implementation capacity – although as ongoing discussions about Commonwealth reform show, the place of CLGF and other Associated Organisations requires further consolidation if the Commonwealth family is to be truly joined-up. Beyond the Commonwealth, at the UN, the EU and elsewhere, CLGF has gained recognition as an important global network willing to work with others in partnership.

CLGF's advocacy work has had significant successes such as the adoption of the Aberdeen Principles on local democracy, the implementation of the Cardiff Consensus on local economic development and the recognition of developmental local government. This work is currently finding its expression in the efforts to ensure localisation of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals, which will be a major focus of the 2015 CLGF Conference in Botswana. CLGF's knowledge-sharing has seen its biennial conference evolve into a major global event and its local government handbook and e-journal recognised as valuable tools. Its small scale, but growing capacity-building work, too, is valued not only for its impact but also for its peer-to-peer focus, south-south exchanges and deployment of low-cost resources.

What challenges are we facing in the next 20 years?

Major challenges remain and CLGF - like any effective organisation - needs to respond to change and constantly seek to reinvent itself. The implementation of the new SDGs by local government 2015-30 and indeed beyond will be a major task, as will be responding to rapid urbanisation and the role of cities, especially secondary cities where much urban expansion is taking place. Localising resources to local government must go hand in hand with localising the SDGs, a message CLGF will be discussing at the conference in Botswana and looking at its potential for the future.

CLGF is, after 20 years, in a sound position to continue the task of making a difference and responding to new global challenges as they arise.

1.8m euro project to support local authorities in Zimbabwe

A 30-month EU-funded project to strengthen the institution and operational capacity of local authorities to contribute to a more equitable, open and democratic society was launched on 28 April in Zimbabwe.

Hon Dr Ignatius Chombo, Minister of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing launched a project to support local governments in Zimbabwe. The launch took place in Bulawayo during the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZTF) and ran concurrently with the Local Government Merit Awards.

The project, worth 30 million euros over 30 months, is funded by the

European Union and co-financed by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International - VNGI) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF).

The project will:

- help support the realignment and reform of legislation and regulations in line with devolution provisions
- enhance the skills and knowledge of local authority staff and local authority associations, councillors, residents associations, ward and village committees, and
- engage citizens in local governance.

VNGI in conjunction with MDP will implement the project in the south-western region, focusing on local authorities' capacity enhancement, while CLGF will work in the north-eastern region to help strengthen capacity for local governance and service delivery towards a more developmental local government. The project will also support the institutionalisation and strengthening of the Zimbabwe Local Government Association and civil society.

Twenty-eight rural and urban local authorities who will be involved in the project took part in a consultation following approval for the implementation of the project by the Ministry of Local Government,

Public Works and National Housing in February 2015. However, all local authorities will benefit from the capacity-building resources and learning experiences that the projects will develop. This new initiative will also help build local capacity and strengthen the links between local government and the community in line with the new constitutional provisions.





Localising resources alongside the SDGs

There is now a general acceptance that, for the new Sustainable Development Goals to be delivered, they need to be localised and that all levels of government, including regional and local governments, must be involved in the process.

The next step is to ensure that there is appropriate fiscal decentralisation and sharing of national resources, with a productive source of revenues supported by predictable transfers to ensure that local and regional governments can fully deliver on their responsibilities.

Since January, the Global Task Force of Regional and Local Governments, in which CLGF is a key partner, has been engaged in UN consultations on financing for development, especially preparations for the forthcoming conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa 13-16 July which will be a pivotal point: CLGF will be attending the meeting as part of the Commonwealth delegation and working with the Global Task Force and others to ensure that local government's voice is heard in the debate. The issue will also feature high on the agenda of the CLGF Biennial Conference in Gaborone in June.



There is a general acknowledgement of the huge amount of public and private investments needed to promote prosperity, cope with the impact of climate change, and eradicate poverty. Many countries have a backlog of infrastructure needs and population growth and urbanisation produces even greater demands. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be 2.5 billion new urban dwellers ie an increase in urban population equivalent to the current total population of all Commonwealth countries. Local and regional governments need to find ways of mobilising the wealth produced in their jurisdiction to finance and support development, and have access to long-term finance and strengthen their capacities to deliver sustainable and pro-poor services.

At its meeting in 2014, the CLGF Board highlighted the issue of localising finance alongside localising the SDGs, pointing out the need for better collection rates of local revenue, and creating new sources of local revenue including central-local transfers, direct access to development partner finance, to new international funds and from international capital markets, for example through the issue of municipal bonds.

The issue was also highlighted in the Turin communique – the outcome of the final High Level Global dialogue meeting in the Localisation of the Post-2015 Agenda global consultation process – in October 2014. The communique called for sustainable financing mechanisms for localising the global development agenda and the means to build responsive and accountable local institutions, including the full and effective participation of local governments in public expenditure allocation through fiscal decentralisation, as well as new forms of financing for local government.

The recent UN High-Level meeting of the Dialogue on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions for the Implementation of the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova, on 25-26 February 2015 highlighted the need for financing for development to ensure localising of resources alongside localising of the SDGs and for this to be taken up in Addis. CLGF was represented at the meeting by Board member Mayor Lazoros Savvides and Secretary-General Carl Wright, who co-chaired the meeting. As a result of their and other interventions, the Chisinau outcome statement highlights the importance of empowering local authorities to own and achieve development goals through capacity strengthening and institutional effectiveness and stated that it is essential to 'localise the resources', so that local government has the necessary financial and other capacity to implement the development goals.

This process on Financing for Development is now reaching its critical stage as CLGF and the Global Task Force work towards an agreement at the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015. One of the key issues in the debate is how local government authorities – in cities, municipalities and beyond – will have the powers and freedoms to determine how and when development funding associated with the new SDGs will be spent. The Global Task Force sees the zero draft of the Addis Ababa Accord as a step forward in the recognition of regional and sub-national government, but says that it does not go far enough.

"The upcoming FfD3 conference provides a unique opportunity, not only to advance our thinking of how to facilitate the mobilisation of funding to promote sustainable local development, but also to deepen the global understanding of how to unlock the developmental potential of local and regional areas and the bodies that govern them".

Financing urbanisation

As a member of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Agenda (GTF) and Habitat III, CLGF participated in UN Habitat's PrepCom II in Nairobi, Kenya on 14-16 April to input the local and regional governments perspective into the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) that will take place in October 2016.

At GTF's preparatory meeting, the group discussed some of the priorities that local and regional governments want to see address in the Habitat III agenda such as equality and accountability, good governance, engaging



with partners and participatory decision making. CLGF Deputy Secretary-General Lucy Slack attended the

meeting and facilitated a session on financing urbanisation and its implications for Habitat III and the ways in which it will help implement the post-2015 agenda at the local level.

Transforming local government to meet the challenges of the next

The global debate around the post-2015 development agenda is about to reach its final stage, with the UN General Assembly expected to announce a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 to guide poverty reduction, economic and social development. CLGF and its members are debating what kind of local government is needed, and what changes are required in terms of conceptual thinking, policies, resources and implementation to ensure that local government has the power, capacity and authority to play a vital role in responding to local needs and concerns to meet the goals.

CLGF's flagship event, the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2015 will take this debate forward. Over 500 senior policy makers including local government practitioners from national and provincial ministries and local government across the Commonwealth will gather in Gaborone, Botswana to celebrate CLGF's 20th anniversary and participate in the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2015 from 16-19 June. The 2015 conference takes place at the prestigious Gaborone International Conference Centre hosted by the Government of Botswana through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Botswana Association of Local Authorities.



Hon Slumber Tsogwane, Botswana Minister of Local Government with CLGF Chairperson Mayor Lawrence Yule and Secretary-General Carl Wright speaking at the conference launch. Rev Mpho Moruakgomo, President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities was also present.

This year is a crucial time of flux and change for local government in the Commonwealth and beyond. At a global level the debate around the post-2015 global development agenda will be reaching its final stages, with the UN General Assembly in September 2015 expected to announce a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals to guide poverty reduction, economic and social development to 2030. Local government has been closely involved in this process and there is strong expectation that localisation of these goals will be a key part of the discussion on implementation modalities. CLGF is an active partner in the *Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Agenda towards Habitat III*.

Many governments are moving towards greater decentralisation and governments and local governments are successfully becoming more developmental in their approach, in an effort to reduce inequalities

and to lift their populations out of poverty. CLGF's 2013 conference focused on developmental local government and the role it can play in transforming the lives of citizens by engaging not just in service delivery, but through enabling and supporting economic growth and participatory long-term planning and delivery. This shift is evident in many Commonwealth countries and will be inextricably linked to the successful localisation of the SDGs.

In an increasingly inter-connected world, with global trade and the impact of natural disasters and climate change effectively rendering borders irrelevant, local governments are under greater pressure to respond at a local level to challenges and opportunities which they cannot directly control. Better educated local populations, and active civil society organisations have much higher expectations of their local governments, they are also increasingly

Government 15 years



mobile in the search for jobs and economic opportunity both within countries and across countries, providing greater pressures on the policy-makers and service deliverers to respond to changing needs on the ground.

Rapid urbanisation

The impact of these changes is seen most clearly in the cities across the Commonwealth, and in its many small states. The impact of rapid urbanisation means that 65% of the global population will be living in cities by 2015. The urban population in the Commonwealth currently stands at 38% although levels of urbanisation vary significantly from country to country. Rapid urbanisation results in a complex set of democracy, governance and management challenges ranging from poor and unplanned settlements, limited infrastructure capacity, lack of housing, poor security and lack of

public transport - all key issues which have been picked up in SDG 11, which seeks to recognise the unique challenges of urbanisation with a set of dedicated targets to support cities and human settlements.

It is against this backdrop that Commonwealth member states are asking themselves what kind of governments they need to respond effectively to the challenges of the future, and within that broader conversation, CLGF and its members are debating the kind of local government that is needed, and what changes are required in terms of conceptual thinking, policies, resourcing and implementation capacity, to ensure that local government has the power, capacity and authority to deliver effectively and to play a full role in responding to local needs and priorities, national development plans and in supporting the effective implementation of the SDGs to achieve the Local Government Vision 2030.



Commonwealth Local Government Conference

Local government 2030: achieving the vision

Keynote speakers:

- **HE Lt General Seretse Khama Ian Khama**, President of the Republic of Botswana
- **HE John Dramani Mahama**, President of Ghana
- **Hon Dr Joseph Muscat**, Prime Minister of Malta
- **Rt Hon Helen Clark**, Administrator, UNDP
- **Abdoulie Janneh**, Executive Director, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- **Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax**, Executive Director, SADC
- **Dr Aisa Kirabo Kacyira**, Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for UN-Habitat

How Commonwealth local government is transforming

Local government is transforming itself in many regions of the Commonwealth. The conference will give delegates a great opportunity to look at local government practices from across the Commonwealth including Botswana, one of the most successful countries in Africa, and the wider South African Development Community region.

South Africa has developed a radical constitution which speaks to developmental local government and interlocking spheres of government in which developmental local government is a core priority; in Kenya a new devolution process will see county governments developed, led by directly accountable governors with extensive powers over local resources and service delivery; in Papua New Guinea the government is empowering local government as a key part of nation building and trialling a system of local service standards to increase universal access to development opportunities; in Jamaica councils are required to develop a long-term sustainable development plan; and in India major national investment is being linked to improvement of governance and leverage of private sector resources to respond to the infrastructure and service delivery priorities of the major urban centres.

Developing a decentralisation policy in Botswana

Botswana, which is hosting the 2015 Commonwealth Local Government Conference, is showing that it is serious about empowering local governments and has put an increased focus on decentralisation. As part of CLGF's programme in Southern Africa, CLGF is working with the Botswana Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and UNDP to help develop a decentralisation policy.

The decentralisation policy will act as a tool to guide overall service delivery, coordinate and align decision making to enhance national and local level democracy and promote popular participation for sustainable national development.

Metros make a mark in South Africa

The metropolitan municipality concept in South Africa is one where a large local government area covers the whole metropolitan area (including the commuter area and functional economic area). The single political authority allows development to be focused and decisions to be implemented but requires strong leadership and management. Where this has worked well, delivery has outperformed many countries.

eThekweni is a metropolitan area in South Africa providing services to 3.44 million people. Between 2001 and 2011 eThekweni municipality managed an unprecedented rise in service delivery with strong political and administrative leadership driving delivery. This helped to reduce some of the historical backlogs on housing and basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity, but has also generated more migration to the city leading to greater demand. It therefore needs more resources in future to cope with this new demand to meet the needs of its citizens and help deliver the targets set in the new SDGs.

The city provides many of its services for free, with free services costing some R3.07 billion a year of its 32 billion (US\$ 3.5 billion) budget. The city has delivered a significant number of new homes (5,700 a year over the past five years), but still needs 400,000 more units.

■ *The eThekweni case study will form part of the background paper: Local government 2030: achieving the vision which will be distributed to delegates at the forthcoming Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Gaborone, Botswana, 16-19 June 2015.*

Pacific prioritises solutions to urbanisation

In 2003, no Pacific country had an urbanisation policy, but, as urbanisation increases, countries in the region are making their response a priority. Now five countries in the region have developed urbanisation policies – Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and, the latest being the Solomon Islands which announced its first urbanisation policy at the recent Pacific Urban Forum.

The Fourth Pacific Urban Forum, facilitated by UN-Habitat and CLGF Pacific focused on the theme *Towards a new Pacific urban agenda: harnessing opportunities in a post-2015 environment*. It was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 25-27 March 2015. The Forum took place amidst the coordinated efforts to respond to Cyclone Pam which had hit and caused catastrophic damage to Vanuatu as well as neighbouring countries of Kiribati and Tuvalu - a graphic illustration of the many challenges faced by Pacific cities and local governments.

The Pacific Urban Forum has called for sustainable solutions to the challenges of urbanisation and its impact on towns, cities and other urban centres in the region.

The New Pacific Urban Agenda, the outcome document from the event, says that urban challenges are a priority for development in the Pacific region and highlights the region's key challenges:

- upgrading of informal settlements and access to safe and affordable housing
- provision of basic infrastructure and services
- urban resilience to climate and disaster risks
- rural-urban linkages
- gender equality
- job creation
- planning management
- data collection and analysis.

Urbanisation trends

With urbanisation continuing to increase at a rapid pace, urbanisation in the Pacific is a microcosm of broader global urbanisation trends, with the urban population increasing at a rapid pace, strong links between urbanisation and economic growth, and continuing symptoms of urban hardship and poverty in towns and cities.



The Forum continued to build on the work begun in 2003 when the first Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA) was developed and endorsed by regional leaders in 2005 for inclusion in the Pacific Plan – a master strategy for strengthening regional cooperation and integration in the Pacific.

The 2015 event was attended by urban policy makers, local and national government representatives, heads of Pacific cities and towns and NGOs from eight Pacific Island countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The New Pacific Urban Agenda recommends that

- Assessments are made on vulnerability to climate change, pollution and other hazards to develop climate change and low emission action plans
- Local economic development approaches should be developed based on opportunities
- All countries should develop urbanisation policies and review legislation to ensure sustainable local development and urbanisation.

The Agenda document will be used as part of the discussion and consultations for a number of important forthcoming events including: the 2015 Commonwealth Local Government Conference, Botswana 16-19 June 2015; Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, July 2015; Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, Papua New Guinea, September 2015; and will input into the Asia-Pacific region's preparations towards Habitat III ahead of the formulation of a new global urban agenda for the next 20 years.

New guidebook supports Sri Lanka councils to conduct meetings

A council user guidelines handbook has been launched in Sri Lanka as part of the CLGF/ Commonwealth Secretariat strengthening local government project. The guidelines help clarify the divisions of roles and responsibilities between provincial and local councils and helps councils find their way through the red tape in conducting council meetings; the book is based on the government's 1998 rules and regulations on council affairs.



The guidelines were launched in Kandy on 12 May by Chief Minister Hon Sarath Ekanayake.

The Sri Lanka project is also focussing on encouraging more women to stand to be a councillor, and in early May held a big event to bring together some 100 women councillors and potential candidates to advise women standing for election on practical issues, relationship management and leadership.

CLGF signs a historic agreement with the EU



CLGF Board member Mayor Lazoros Savvides signing the agreement with EU Commissioner Neven Mimica.

CLGF has signed a historic partnership agreement with the European Union to support good governance and sustainable development at local level. This is part of European Commission's efforts towards making an impact on development by working together with local authority organisations. Four other international local authority associations including the Association International Maires Francophones (AIMF); Council of European Municipalities and Regions/PLATFORMA (CEMR/PLATFORMA); United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A); and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) have signed similar agreements with the EU. Through the agreements, the EU will make some 20 million euros available to the five organisations over three years, which will be used to enhance the associations' structures, capacity and relations with their members; to improve their capacity to contribute to national, regional and global policy-making.

Board members

Africa

East

Hon Dr Didas Massaburi, Chairman, Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania

Hon Adolf Mwesige, Minister of Local Government, Uganda (*Vice Chairperson*) *

Hon Francis Kaboneka, Minister of Local Government, Rwanda (*alternate*)

Southern

Rev Mpho MBW Moruakgomo, President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities, Botswana *

Cllr Muesee Kazapua, President, Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (*alternate*)

Hon Emmanuel T Chenda, Minister for Local Government, Housing, Early Education and Environmental Protection, Zambia

Hon Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South Africa (*alternate*)

West

Cllr Sam Franklyn B Gibson, Mayor, Freetown City Council, Sierra Leone

Hon Alhaji Collins Dauda, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana

Americas

Mayor Scean Barnswell, President, Association of Local Government Authorities, Jamaica

Mayor Darrell Bradley, Mayor of Belize City Council, Belize (*alternate*)

Cllr Michael Thompson, Board Member, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada

Alderman Anthony Roberts, Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (*alternate*)

Hon Noel Arscott MP, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Jamaica *

Hon Marlene Coudray MP, Minister of Local Government, Trinidad and Tobago

Hon Alfred V Gray, Minister for Lands and Local Government, Bahamas (*alternate*)

Asia- Pacific

Asia

Mayor S Ali Zahir Moulana, Chairman, Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka

Hon Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India

Dato' Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, Malaysia (*alternate*)

Pacific

Mayor Lawrence Yule, President Local Government New Zealand (*Chairperson*) *

Mayor Troy Pickard, President, Australian Local Government Association (*alternate*)

Hon Teima Onorio, Vice-President and Minister of Internal Affairs and Social Development, Kiribati

Europe

Cllr Nick Small, Local Government Association of England and Wales

Mayor Lazaros S Savvides, Union of Cyprus Municipalities, Cyprus (*alternate*)

Hon Stefan Buontempo, MP, Secretary for Local Government, Malta

Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Public Services, Wales (*alternate*)

Members at large

Cllr Philip McPhee, President, Bahamas Association of Local Government Authorities, Bahamas (*Vice Chairperson*) *

Cllr Thabo Manyoni, Chairperson, South African Local Government Association

Associate members

Dr Philip Amis, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, UK

Professor P S Reddy, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa (*alternate*)

Dr Eris Schoburgh, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

Dr Bhaskar Chakrabarti, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, India (*alternate*)

Co-opted members

Hon Mohammad Anwar Husnoo, Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands, Mauritius

Hon Slumber Tsogwane, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Botswana

Hon Paula Bennett, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand

Ex-officio

Simon Baker, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, UK *Honorary Treasurer* *

Carl Wright, *Secretary-General* *

* Denotes members of the Executive Committee

News in brief

Good governance conference in Dhaka

The second international conference on local government took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 27-28 March that highlighted the role of local governments and associations in socio-economic development. Organised by Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB), the conference discussed the theme *Engaging people, promoting good governance*. Speaking at the event, CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright said, "CLGF is actively working with MAB to implement local economic development in pilot local authorities in Bangladesh." CLGF Board member Mayor Moulana, Chairman of the Federation of Sri Lanka Local Government Authorities also participated at the conference.

Improving local governance in Myanmar

CLGF participated in the Myanmar Good Governance Forum on 24-25 February that looked beyond the national reforms to the progress on decentralisation and local governance reform. During the event, a set of mapping reports were launched which showed the state of local governance in the 14 states and regions of Myanmar. The reports were part of the local governance mapping initiative led by the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNDP.

CLGF at SALGA assembly

A CLGF delegation including Chairperson Mayor Lawrence Yule and Secretary-General Carl Wright attended the SALGA national members' assembly on 24-26 March in Midrand, South Africa. Chaired by SALGA Chairperson Mayor Thabo Manyoni and addressed by HE President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, the assembly discussed various issues impacting local governments including improving local accountability, promoting leadership and governance, stimulating innovation and good practice amongst others. CLGF Chairperson Mayor Yule said, "South Africa and SALGA have played a leadership role in local government; your concept of developmental local government has been adopted as a guiding principle for CLGF members across the Commonwealth."





June

- 10-12 **Caribbean Urban Forum**
Castries, St Lucia
- 15-16 **CLGF Research Colloquium**
University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana
- 16-19 **Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2015**
Theme: *Local government 2030: achieving the vision*, Gaborone International Conference Centre, Gaborone, Botswana
Follow us on Twitter @CLGF_News using #clgc2015
- 16 **CLGF Board meeting**
Gaborone, Botswana
- 19 **CLGF General meeting of members**
Gaborone, Botswana

July

- 13-16 **International Conference on Financing for Development**
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

September

- 15-28 **United Nations General Assembly**
UN HQ, New York
- 21-23 **UN Summit of Head of States on Post-2015 Development Agenda**
UN HQ, New York

October

- 15-18 **World Forum on Local Economic Development**
Turin, Italy

November 2015

- 18-19 **CLGF Executive Committee meeting**
London, UK
- 27-29 **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)**
Malta

Publications

Local democracy - learning from good practice

Commissioned by CLGF and IDEA, this research paper gives an overview of the key trends and developments impacting local democracy including various systems of local governance across the Commonwealth. The study reveals that the key areas impacting local democracy include the global financial crisis, the effects of urbanisation, rising conflicts, the need for a developmental approach to local governance amongst others. Check out www.clgf.org.uk/local-democracy-today-and-tomorrow to find out more.

LED in South Asia: review of policy and practice

This CLGF study draws out the policy framework and local economic development related good practices from the five commonwealth countries across South Asia including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The paper outlines the legal and policy frameworks within each country to boost local economic growth. This paper has been commissioned by CLGF and prepared by Okapi Research. Check out www.clgf.org.uk/led-in-south-asia to find out more.

Distance learning Masters in Public Administration

Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) at the University of Birmingham (UB) are offering an exciting opportunity to pursue a distance learning Masters in Public Administration that offers a practical understanding of public leadership in a global perspective. CLGF will be launching a special bursary in partnership with INLOGOV for this course at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Botswana. Don't forget to visit the INLOGOV exhibition stand at the conference to find out more.

Celebrating CLGF's 20th anniversary



CELEBRATING CLGF'S
20TH ANNIVERSARY

This year CLGF celebrates 20 years of working to promote and strengthen effective democratic local government throughout the Commonwealth and facilitating the exchange of good practice in local government services. As a Commonwealth organisation, CLGF draws on the influential network of the Commonwealth that provides a solid basis for its programmes and activities. As an associated organisation officially recognised by Commonwealth Heads of Government, CLGF is well-placed to influence policy development and lead on democracy and good governance at local level.

CLGF's strength lies in its members

With some 200 members in most of the 53 Countries of the Commonwealth, CLGF's strength lies in its membership whose representatives are the key players in local government in the Commonwealth and can be drawn into CLGF's work as experts and influencers.

Become a member of CLGF by simply emailing us on info@clgf.org.uk or visit our stand at the conference in Gaborone, Botswana to find out more.