



**House of Commons – House of Lords**

**Council for Education in  
the  
Commonwealth  
Three-Year  
Plan  
2010-2013**

Commonwealth House • 7 Lion Yard • Tremadoc Road • London SW4 7NQ  
Tel & Fax: 01277 212357 [www.cecomm.org.uk](http://www.cecomm.org.uk) • E: [secretariat@cecomm.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@cecomm.org.uk)

Patrons: Lord Judd of Portsea • Lord Luce of Adur • Lord McNally of Blackpool  
Baroness Morris of Bolton

Joint Parliamentary Chairpersons: • Simon Hughes MP • David Lammy MP

Registered Charity No 1091704 Company limited by guarantee No 4391999

## ABOUT THE CEC

The Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC) is committed to the urgent expansion and improvement of education throughout the Commonwealth. It regards the quality of education that the majority of Commonwealth citizens receive as depressingly inadequate, and considers this a continuing affront to the whole Commonwealth community.

CEC *aims* to promote more and better education and training at all levels across the Commonwealth through the expansion of early childhood development, primary and secondary schooling, universities, professional and other post-school and lifelong learning programmes by:

- informing the British public about the current situation and emerging issues in education in and between Commonwealth members;
- influencing the agendas, discussions and conclusions of the Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEMs), the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs), Women's Affairs Ministers Meetings (WAMM) and Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meetings (CYMM);
- engaging in educational advocacy with UK ministers and Commonwealth governments;
- forming partnerships to pursue these agendas in the wider Commonwealth community, especially through High Commissions in London, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation and sister organisations in membership of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education;
- providing a forum for informed discussion, analysis and development of educational issues, as they arise or are foreseen.

## ***Status and Relationships***

- CEC is a *voluntary organisation*, incorporated as a non-profit company limited by guarantee, with charitable status.
- CEC has *formal Commonwealth accreditation*, enabling it to be represented at inter-governmental meetings, as well as at associated civil society events.
- All *Commonwealth High Commissions* in London are honorary members of CEC.

Since its foundation in 1959 CEC has had enjoyed close links with Parliament in London. Its Patrons are members of the House of Lords and its Parliamentary Chairs are elected members of the House of Commons. A member of the Governing Board serves as Parliamentary Liaison Officer. This parliamentary connection gives CEC a unique platform from which to undertake educational advocacy across the Commonwealth.

CEC regularly works in partnership with others, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth of Learning, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Institute of Education (IOE) of the University of London. The Institute is a corporate member and generously offers individual CEC members free reading rights at its library in Bedford Way. CEC is a founding member of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education and a member of the UK Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET).

CEC enjoys a special relationship with the British Council, a long-time collaborator and supporter, and also with the Royal Commonwealth Society/ Commonwealth Club (RCS), which offers privileged membership rates to CEC members.

## ***How the CEC Works***

CEC's main resource is its *members* to whom it is statutorily responsible through an Annual General Meeting. To keep members abreast of planned activities, programmes and emerging needs,

CEC maintains a website, [www.cecomm.org.uk](http://www.cecomm.org.uk), and publishes a periodic newsletter.

The elected Governing Board is legally responsible for ensuring that CEC works to achieve its charitable purposes, supported by proper financial administration and effective management. The Board is served by three Committees: Finance and General Purposes; Policy, Strategy and Public Affairs; Programmes, Projects and Communications. Non-Board members may be invited to serve on the two latter Committees. Executive functions are carried out by CEC officers, with support from other Committee members. CEC income comes from subscriptions (enhanced by Gift Aid), surpluses on events and activities, and occasional paid commissions for the Commonwealth Secretariat and other bodies.

Membership records and subscription renewals are managed by the Charities Aid Foundation.

## **THREE-YEAR PLAN 2010 – 2013**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The three-year plan informs members and others interested about the issues with which CEC is currently engaging and the activities being prepared in relation to them. The plan is updated annually. After the draft has been submitted to the AGM, the Board is asked to approve the revised plan at its first meeting for the following year. The Board assumes responsibility for the execution of the Plan, supported by its three Committees, with the help of members and in collaboration with other agencies.

### **PLAN PRIORITIES**

The Plan (2010-2013) prioritises three areas of activity:

1. The Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEMs), the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs), the Women's Affairs Meetings (WAMM) and the

Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meetings (CYMM) are the focus of most CEC initiatives.

2. The strengthening of CEC links with the British Parliament and Government, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth High Commissions in London will ensure that they remain key channels for bringing knowledge and advocacy to bear on Commonwealth education policy and action.
3. The promotion of education about the Commonwealth and its values for all groups of learners, particularly but not only in the UK.

*1] Contributing to the CCEM, CHOGM, WAMM and CYMM:*

In 2011, CEC will focus on the CHOGM in Perth, Australia. In 2012, it will aim to be at the 18<sup>th</sup> CCEM in the Bahamas and the 8<sup>th</sup> CYMM in Papua New Guinea. In 2013, CEC will aim to be at the CHOGM in Sri Lanka and the 9<sup>th</sup> WAMM, at a venue yet to be decided. CEC will as usual participate in the Commonwealth Peoples' Forums associated with these meetings.

CEC will continue to advocate closer cooperation among Commonwealth countries in pursuit of the following objectives:

- Ensuring continued progress towards sustainable, universal primary completion (UPC) in Commonwealth countries.
- Developing strategies for implementing universal access to secondary education, as a right for all children, a natural extension of and support for UPC, and indispensable for full participation in a global economy driven by information and knowledge.
- Policies that emphasise the linkages between the different levels of education and the importance of secondary, tertiary and lifelong learning, including promoting adult literacy, in supporting Education for All.
- Strengthening and revitalising universities in Commonwealth developing countries, particularly in Africa.

- Support for proposals to strengthen and expand the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), including through the newly established Endowment Fund; and to maintain the coverage of the UK contribution to include all Commonwealth countries.
- Exploration of possible mechanisms to extend the range of cooperative programmes and exchanges in education between Commonwealth developing countries.
- Monitoring of opportunities for international mobility of teachers and students in the Commonwealth, with particular regard to the needs of the poorest and smallest countries and to the impact of such mobility on their development.
- Identification of ways through which Commonwealth Governments can enlist the support of civil society in strengthening local institutions and professional organisations through partnerships and Commonwealth-wide networking.
- Support for the Commonwealth of Learning, especially its work with small states
- The expanded provision of Open Education Resources for schools and universities.

Specific activities in support of some of these objectives will include addressing Heads of Government and their Ministers of Education, Higher Education and Science and Technology to encourage donations from both public and private sources to the CSFP Endowment Fund. This effort, beginning in June 2010, will be carefully coordinated with the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Management Committee of the Fund. By March 2011 CEC will also have developed ways to monitor the implementation of recommendations by the 17<sup>th</sup> CCEM in June 2009.

*2] Strengthening links with the British Parliament and Government, the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth High Commissions: Parliament: CEC will extend its relations with the different All-Party*

Parliamentary Groups which concern themselves either with particular Commonwealth countries or with issues that affect education in the Commonwealth. CEC will continue to explore opportunities for increasing parliamentary awareness of education in the Commonwealth, working where appropriate with the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

To keep MPs and peers informed of relevant activities, by July 2011 CEC will have created e-mail distribution lists for the All Party Groups that combine interests in Commonwealth countries with education and training.

*British Government:* The CEC will continue to press for:

(a) Follow-up by relevant departments on:

- the International Education Strategy first issued in 2004 by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and succeeded in 2010 by the Global Education Strategy jointly sponsored by the Departments of Education and for International Development - and determine its present status;
- a properly balanced implementation of the 2010 Education Strategy of the Department for International Development;
- full British engagement in the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and generous contributions to budgets that support Commonwealth education co-operation and interchange;

(b) Increased public support for

- the public interest work of the British Council and the BBC in international education;
- the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, as it moves from Bristol to London.

CEC will make a point of establishing contact with the newly appointed Secretaries of State and ministerial teams, and their civil service teams by the end of 2010.

CEC will continue to mobilise working groups of members to maintain its role as a valued and rapidly responsive resource for the British Government in matters of education in Commonwealth countries.

*High Commissions:* CEC will continue to invite Commonwealth High Commissioners and their Education Officers to all its public meetings. It will also continue to enlist their help, when it organises an event to honour a particular country.

*Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation:* CEC will continue to participate substantively in all the public consultations, formal and informal, that the Secretariat and Foundation convene on education.

*Civil society partners:* CEC will work closely with civil society groups which have similar aims. In addition to closer partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, it will seek to develop closer links with the Commonwealth Business Council, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Commonwealth Teachers Group and the Global Campaign for Education.

CEC will link up with kindred bodies in Commonwealth countries to bring advocacy to bear simultaneously on their governments and on the British government. By July 2011 CEC will have initiated links with at least one analogous educational organisation in at least one country in each of the African, American, Asian and Pacific regions of the Commonwealth.

As a founding member of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education and recognising the importance of working with other like-minded educational organisations, CEC will promote joint collaboration, initiatives and lobbying by Commonwealth associations and others in the education sector.

### *3] Promoting education about the Commonwealth among all groups of learners*

The Annual Conference and the prestigious annual Gladwyn Lecture will continue as vehicles to keep the CEC membership and a wider public informed of current prominent issues. In addition, the CEC will continue its practice of organising four or five public meetings a year, at least one of them outside London.

During 2010 the CEC will celebrate 50 years of educational progress since independence in Nigeria, in 2011 in Sierra Leone and Tanzania, 2012 in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Uganda and 2013 in Kenya. CEC will also make efforts to mark the similar but lesser anniversaries of 20, 30 and 40 years for a number of other countries.

CEC will consult with other concerned and experienced organisations in the field of education about the Commonwealth to assess how Ministers' past recommendations on the subject can be taken forward through a coordinated approach.

Independently and working in cooperation with its partners, CEC will:

- campaign for the development of curricula for in-school and out-of-school learners to gain a greater awareness of the Commonwealth and identify with its values;
- promote the provision of appropriate educational materials through the internet and for hard-copy use by schools and others;
- encourage its members to launch initiatives at local level, including activities with Commonwealth diaspora groups;
- meet with interested MPs to raise issues about the Commonwealth and the function and funding of Commonwealth institutions; seek ways to persuade the media to give more prominence to the Commonwealth;
- seek to engage active private sector interest and contributions.

Two particular focuses of concern and activity in 2010-2011 will be [1] to follow up on the 2009 CHOGM request to the Commonwealth Secretariat to explore options to strengthen its education programme on Respect and Understanding, arising from the recommendations of *Civil paths to peace*, the 2007 Sen Report; and [2] to work with the CCfE in developing a submission to the Eminent Persons Group that will be examining options for reform in order to bring the Commonwealth's many institutions into a stronger and more effective framework of

cooperation and partnership; and reporting to the 2011 CHOGM in Perth.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

*Projects:* CEC will continue to sponsor ‘Knowledge Aid for Sierra Leone’ (KASL), which promotes the use and adaptation of Open Education Resources from the Internet for the benefit of secondary schools. CEC will continue to waive the overhead costs incurred in supporting, monitoring and taking formal responsibility for the project. It would like to encourage the expansion of KASL and mobilise an increase in funding to bring this about.

In 2010 the proceedings of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2009 Conference in Oxford, *Looking ahead at 50: the future of Commonwealth Educational Co-operation*, are due to be published, along with a history of cooperation in education around the Commonwealth. In addition, *Voices: Commonwealth women in education*, a web-based publication launched in 2009, looks forward to welcoming many more additions to the current 19 contributions.

The Hon. Projects Officer will continue to explore opportunities for appropriate project research and development.

## **MONITORING THE PLAN**

The Policy, Strategy and Public Affairs Committee will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this 3-year plan and will report to the Governing Board twice a year at the summer and spring Board meetings.

## **STRENGTHENING THE CEC**

*Membership:* The recruitment drive of the second half of 2009 has succeeded in reorganising the membership rolls and in enhancing membership numbers. The goals of 150 individual members and 15 corporate members remain. If the current membership team of four are able to sustain their drive, there is a good chance of achieving the goals by the end of 2013. Students temporarily in the UK from the Commonwealth, including Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, will

be invited to join as honorary members. Diaspora groups from Commonwealth countries continue to be constituencies of potential interest and support for CEC and its programmes.

*Information and communications:* Members will continue to receive *Commonwealth Education News* periodically, helping them to stay abreast of the CEC's own activities and events and also of Commonwealth programmes and initiatives. The CEC *web-site* will be kept up to date and expanded, while the potential of media like *Facebook* and *Twitter* will be assessed.

*Governance:* Efforts to redress the age imbalance in the Governing Board, following the success in achieving better gender balance, will be intensified.

*Management:* CEC will step up its efforts to recruit volunteers for three key functions. The first is someone who would be willing to act as an assistant to the Hon. Secretary until June 2011 and then take over as Hon. Secretary in July 2011. The second is someone who will succeed the Hon. Treasurer in 2011. Third is a fund-raiser who will enable CEC to package its annual programmes in ways that will appeal to corporations, foundations and other bodies with interests in the Commonwealth and education.

*Finance:* To strengthen its financial stability, the CEC aims to increase its regular income from membership, donations and overheads to at least £15,000 by 2013. Specific plans include packaging the annual programme as described in the previous paragraph and appealing for members and other to consider bequests to the Council. In building its reserves the Council policy is to continue to build on the firm foundation laid down in recent years with the aspiration to establish an endowment sufficient to realise CEC's future plans and potential.

*Appreciation of contributions:* The Board is indebted to the significant voluntary professional *pro bono* contribution from many of its executive and members. If measured in financial terms, it would enhance the annual revenue figure ten-fold or more.

