

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION: LOOKING AHEAD AT 50

31 March and 1 April 2009 at the University of Oxford

Introduction

Looking ahead at 50 will celebrate half a century of educational co-operation between Commonwealth member states. In 1959, the first Commonwealth Education Conference was held in Oxford, initiating what have become triennial Conferences of Education Ministers (CEEMs). In addition 1959 saw the inauguration of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) and the creation of the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC).

The 2009 conference, mindful of **achievements since 1959**, will explore alternative approaches to **present and future challenges**. This will help to pave the way to **17CEEM** in Kuala Lumpur in June and to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (**CHOGM**) in Trinidad and Tobago, in November. The event is hosted by The University of Oxford, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Council for Education in the Commonwealth.

Speakers from across member states will include Commonwealth leaders, senior government policy makers, administrators, researchers and civil society representatives. Every effort will be made to **maximise representation**, in a programme of plenary **lectures, panels** and policy-oriented **discussion groups**.

The **University of Oxford Celebration** will be hosted by the Chancellor, **Lord Patten of Barnes**, on the evening of 31 March in the Sheldonian Theatre. This will be followed by a reception.

An *aide mémoire* will be circulated shortly after the meeting, to be followed by fuller proceedings.

Planning team

Commonwealth Secretariat: Caroline Pontefract, Henry Kaluba, Alex Wright
Council for Education in the Commonwealth: Peter Williams, Rosemary Preston, Geoffrey Hulme

University of Oxford Liaison

Alasdair MacDonald, Heather Bell, Susan McCormack, Suzanne Henry, Rosemary Rey

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**COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION:
LOOKING AHEAD AT 50**

11.00 am, 31 March to 4 pm, 1 April 2009, St Catherine's College, University of Oxford

OUTLINE PROGRAMME (Provisional)

Conference chair: Frances Stewart, University of Oxford

Tuesday 31 March

WELCOME

John Hood, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford
Ransford Smith, Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General
Valerie Davey, Executive Chairperson, Council for Education in the Commonwealth

SESSION 1: GLOBALISATION, THE COMMONWEALTH AND EDUCATION

Ian Goldin, Director of the James Martin 21st Century School, University of Oxford
Changing patterns of multilateral relations and the Commonwealth today

Hon Mrs Naledi Pandor, Minister of Education, Republic of South Africa
Achievements in Commonwealth educational co-operation: rising to C21 challenges

Lunch

SESSION 2: COMMONWEALTH ROLES IN GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Plenary panel

Amina Ibrahim, Ministry of Education, Nigeria: Strengthening education internationally and regionally
Sir John Daniel, Commonwealth of Learning: Market forces and the common good in international educational
Didacus Jules, Caribbean Examinations Council: Mobility, qualifications and recognition
Iffat Farah, Aga Khan University, Tanzania: New partnerships and educational transformation

**SESSION 3: IMPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPERATION IN MEMBER STATES AND
REGIONS**

Group discussions

Tea

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD CELEBRATION

5.30 pm, 31 March, Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street

Fifty years after hosting the first Commonwealth Education Conference
The University of Oxford celebrates five decades of Commonwealth Scholarships and debates
The Future of Higher Education in the Commonwealth.

Chair

Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of the University of Oxford

Speakers

His Excellency, Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General
Sir David King, Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment
Dr Nicola Brewer, Chief Executive of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Followed by a reception in the Divinity School

Dinner

Wednesday 1 April

SESSION 4: INNOVATION AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKING TOGETHER

Plenary panel

Uma Coomaraswamy, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka: New approaches to learning and skill development
Dzulkifli Razak, Universiti Sains Malaysia: Internationalisation and interchange in higher education
George Oduro, University of Cape Coast, Ghana: Building capacities, training and professionalisation
Lord Alderdice of Knock, Learning to live together with respect and understanding

SESSION 5: FRAMING COMMONWEALTH EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

Policy-oriented group discussions

Lunch

SESSION 6: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Hon Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
The next 50 years: a vision for Commonwealth education in 2059

Gajaraj Dhanarajan, Vice-Chancellor, Wawasan Open University, Malaysia
Conference review: implications for 17CCEM

CHAIRS AND GROUP FACILITATORS AND PRESENTERS

David Archer, ActionAid, UK
David Atchoarena, IIEP, UNESCO, Paris (tbc)
Barbara Bailey, University of the West Indies,
Mona
Mark Collins, Commonwealth Foundation
Simone de Comarmond, Commonwealth
Foundation and FAWE, Seychelles
Dorothy Gordon, Advanced Information
Technology Institute, Ghana
Lord Judd of Portsea, Patron of CEC
Saeeda Khan, Fatima Jinnah Women University,
Pakistan
John Kirkland, Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission, UK
Sally Keeble, MP Northampton North, UK
John MacBeath, University of Cambridge, UK

Akanksha Marphatia, ActionAid, UK
Narciso Matos, Foundation for Community
Development, Mozambique
Penina Mlama, Camfed Tanzania
Tim Oates, Cambridge Assessment, UK
Steven Obeegadoo, EFA Co-ordination Team,
UNESCO
George Oduro, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
Caroline Pontefract, Commonwealth Secretariat
Frances Stewart, University of Oxford
Ciaran Sugrue, University of Cambridge, UK
Jakes Swartland, Botswana
Victoria teVelde, Commonwealth Policy Studies
Unit
HE Burchell Whiteman, Jamaican High
Commissioner in London

Programme updates and information about speakers will be posted on the CEC web page

www.cecomm.org.uk

Notes:

1. The Conference will take place in St Catherine's College, Oxford. Overnight accommodation is available
2. Approximately 120 delegates are expected at the conference.
3. Discussion groups of between 15 and 30 people will have a named Facilitator and up to two speakers. Panel members from the immediately preceding session will act as resource persons.
4. *Rapporteurs* will synthesise key points and later prepare a written summary to be included in follow-up proceedings.
5. Substantive changes to the above programme are not envisaged. There will be minor modifications to the session titles.

SPONSORSHIP

The generosity of Commonwealth sponsors is gratefully acknowledged.

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