

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION NEWS



The Newsletter of the

Council for Education in the Commonwealth

August 2010

House of Commons – House of Lords

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Welcome to two new Patrons:

Late last year the CEC Governing Board was delighted to hear from our Executive Chair, Valerie Davey, that Baroness Morris of Bolton in the County of Greater Manchester had accepted the invitation to be the Council's Patron among the Conservative peers. And at the meeting on July 8th this year, the Board was equally delighted to hear that Lord Luce of Adur in the County of West Sussex, had accepted the invitation to be the Council's Patron on the crossbenches of the House of Lords.

Baroness Patricia 'Trish' Morris OBE, DL, has formidably strong credentials in education. In January this year, she took office as the Chancellor of the University of Bolton, adding to her commitments as Governor and Trustee of Bolton School, Patron of the Oxford Parent Infant Project, Director of Bolton Lads and Girls Club and member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools. Earlier, she had been a member of the Advisory Committee to the Abbot of Ampleforth, Shadow Minister for Children, Young People, Families and Women and principal opposition spokesman for Education and Skills.

Baroness Morris is also President of the National Benevolent Institution and a Trustee of The Disability Partnership and The Transformation Trust. [Members will recall that the focus of the 2010 CEC Annual Conference was "Including People with Disabilities: Celebrating Experience in the Commonwealth".]

Lord Luce, KG, GCVO, DL, most recently demonstrated his commitment to both the Commonwealth and to education through his support for the CEC campaign on behalf of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. With briefing supplied by Martin Kenyon, Peter Williams and Mark Robinson, he launched a debate in the House

on David Miliband's 2008 decision to stop the FCO participation in the Plan. (The decision effectively cut the eight richer Commonwealth countries out of the Plan.) His contribution helped bring Gordon Brown and John Denham to step in and fund the CSFP for the eight countries -albeit at a much reduced rate- from the budget of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. CEC looks forward to more support from Lord Luce in helping the CSFP weather the spending review due in October.

After a stint as a District Officer in Kenya, followed by work in the private sector, Lord Luce began his parliamentary career in 1972. After serving in several ministerial posts mainly in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he was Minister for the Arts, when he resigned in 1990. He later served as Governor of Gibraltar and as Lord Chamberlain in HM The Queen's Royal Household. The Queen created him a Knight Companion of the Order of the Garter in 2008.

Baroness Morris and Lord Luce have joined Lords Judd and McNally as Patrons of CEC. We are fortunate and privileged to enjoy their support.

Welcome to a new Parliamentary Chair

CEC is very pleased to announce that the Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP for Tottenham in London, has accepted its invitation to succeed Sally Keeble as one of its three Parliamentary Chairs. Members will recall that David was the speaker at the dinner for the 2009 Oxford conference that marked the 50th anniversary of Commonwealth education cooperation, as well as the founding of CEC. Also worth recalling is the extraordinarily gallant gesture that David made, also in 2009, for the 17th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers. He was then Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property and, despite the ongoing Cabinet reshuffle,

he made sure that the UK had ministerial representation at an important Commonwealth event by flying to Malaysia to take part in the opening and first day of the discussions. Shortly afterwards, he gave the CEC AGM a lively briefing on his experience and impressions – and on his strong commitment to the Commonwealth.

David's experience of education is not limited to its higher levels: he was also Minister for Skills with responsibility for the Commission for Employment and Skills.

His credentials for civil society are also solid: he is currently an Honorary Ambassador of ActionAid, having been one of its trustees for six years.

David was made a member of the Privy Council in October 2008.

***Welcome to a new Executive Chair:
Sally Keeble***



Valerie was also able to give the Governing Board the very good news that Sally Keeble, formerly MP for Northampton, had accepted the Search Committee's invitation to succeed her as Executive Chair of CEC, when she steps

down in November this year. Governing Board was delighted and voted unanimously to confirm the appointment. Sally will serve as Executive Chair for a term of at least five years.

Sally, as it happens, is succeeding Valerie for the second time. In 2005, she took over as CEC Parliamentary Chair, when Valerie could no longer undertake that role and became instead our Executive Chair. As one of our three Parliamentary Chairs, Sally has been a strong and consistent ally with Tim Boswell and Simon Hughes in helping CEC

keep Parliament's and the Government's attention on Commonwealth education issues. While Lord Luce focused the attention of the upper chamber, they raised Early Day Motions and questions for ministers in the Commons. Equally important, they were always willing to help secure rooms for meetings that CEC felt needed a parliamentary base to be really effective.

Sally's background includes local and national politics: she was leader of Southwark Borough Council between 1990 and 1993 and MP for Northampton from 1997 until 2010. It also includes professional communications, for she was first a journalist for five years with the *Daily News* in Durban, South Africa, and for five years with the *Birmingham Post* here. Then she was Press Officer at the Labour Party's headquarters, Assistant Director for External Relations at the Inner London Education Authority and Head of Communications at the GMB Trades Union. That expertise should certainly benefit CEC in its efforts to keep the British public and government abreast of and responsive to educational issues in the Commonwealth.

In government, Sally was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions and then at the Department for International Development. In 2005, she became a member of the Treasury Select Committee.

In short, CEC is very fortunate in succeeding to enlist Sally's expertise and energies in guiding and developing its work of promoting education in the Commonwealth.

High Commissions Liaison Officers

All the High Commissioners of the Commonwealth and their staff are honorary members of CEC, but we have always had difficulty in keeping up with the frequent changes of personnel that are natural to their

countries' diplomatic services. This problem should now be mitigated, as two Governing Board members, Chandra Dhupelia, elected in 2009, and Doris Charles, elected in 2010, have jointly undertaken the newly created function of High Commissions Liaison.

Chandra has made an energetic start: with



his wife, Ramila, he has already produced an up-to-date list of High Commissioners and their Education Attachés.

With a financial background in corporate

restructuring and insolvency, Chandra brings skills of team building, networking and negotiation to CEC – all very relevant to our need to strengthen our relations with the 50+ High Commissions in London. With that set of skills Chandra combines a strong interest in the education of girls in India and Uganda –well in tune with the CEC conference on the education of women and girls in Islam and our intent to develop a more active role in the Commonwealth ministerial meetings on women and young people.

For her part, Doris has a special advantage in liaising with High Commissions: she is Deputy High Commissioner and Minister/Counsellor for St. Vincent and the Grenadines! Her



experience in senior management positions in government departments gives her insight into official mentalities, while her work with a Citizen Advice Bureau helps with the interface of the individual, civil society and officialdom. Like Niki Katsaouni – see below – Doris is a

prolific writer and is the creator/editor of a monthly e-letter, “The Vincentian Christian Woman”.

Chandra and Doris see the next step from keeping CEC up to date on the High Commissions as identifying members who have contacts with particular High Commissions, or who might be willing to develop relationships with one or two of them, and then working with them to create and sustain connections.

Simultaneously, they will be contacting High Commissions to identify individuals who would like to take an active interest in the work of CEC. That will likely involve developing networks through taking part in events, where High Commission people are likely to participate. It will also mean ensuring that they or other CEC Board members attend functions organised by High Commissions.

CEC has been getting better at staying in touch with the High Commissions: now that Chandra and Doris are teamed up for this new role, relations with them should become closer and more vibrant.

Second CEC Board Member from the High Commissions

Dr Niki Katsaouni, now a diplomat as Cultural Counsellor at the High Commission of Cyprus, has been an educator, a communicator, magazine editor and civil society activist – all experiences directly relevant to CEC – plus novelist, poet and song-writer.

Niki is totally in tune with CEC's concern for the education of women and young people. She feels that, “CEC is really stirring the waters of the Commonwealth countries so that these waters irrigate more evenly the Earth that sustains us all” and sees education as a cornerstone of human development in all its dimensions and not as a tool for economic growth only. Her own education

and development expanded richly in 2005, when she did a month's lecture, interview and cultural tour of fellow Commonwealth country, Australia.



In civil society, she helped found the Women Walk Home Movement. These women were refugees from the Turkish invasion and occupation of

Cyprus in 1974 and tried to return to their homes peacefully, breaking the military line that still divides the island. Their movement aims for the reunification of the island for the benefit of all its communities. Niki has represented the WWHM at the European Parliament and at numerous conferences across Europe, honing her skills in having resolutions of support framed and passed – again, very relevant to the work of CEC with Parliament and the Commonwealth ministerial meetings.

With Niki and Doris from the High Commissions on board to ensure that CEC keeps abreast of the kinds of advocacy and action needed to move education along at all levels in the Commonwealth, we have made a strong start to our next half century.

Niki has solid credentials in education, as she studied psychology, philosophy/aesthetics, and political science at London University, the Sorbonne, Paris, and the University of Athens respectively, and has a Ph. D. in the Philosophy of Art.

Parliamentary Liaison Officer

Our very long serving and admirably effective Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Martin Kenyon, came to the end of his term of office at the end of June. With excellent help from Mark Robinson, Governing Board was able to invite and to co-opt a seasoned

parliamentary worker, Daniel Hunt, to succeed Martin.

On graduating from the University of St. Andrews in 2006, Daniel spent two years in Parliament working for various Shadow Ministers in both the Lords and the Commons. His long standing interest in the Commonwealth became focused more particularly on India because of his work for Shailesh Vara, MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party Friends of India. In 2008 Daniel moved into public affairs, representing interest groups to the Government, Opposition and Parliamentary stakeholders.



On the education front, he has worked closely with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills on apprenticeship issues and has been a member of the Grant Scheme Working Party, which allocates funding for apprentice training in the construction industry. All this has given him a spreading network of contacts with educational interests within the two Houses, as well as a most useful knowledge of procedures, facilities, possibilities and how to get things done there.

In addition to his skills in parliamentary liaison, Daniel brings not only new blood into CEC, but also much needed and most welcome young blood.

More New Blood

Governing Board seized a further opportunity to bring on board new blood with formidable educational muscle: it co-opted Kabir Shaikh, who was until 2009 Director of Education for UNRWA/UNESCO in Jordan, and before that Director of Education for Bournemouth Local Education Authority following his position of Chief Inspector for Education in London. He has served, too, as Chair of the



National Working Party on Science for a Multicultural Society, which the Association for Science Education convened, and also of the Steering

Group of Local Education Authorities for the provision of Science Services, as well as of the Partnership Board for Leicester City Education. Kabir was a Member of the Advisory Forum to the Royal Naval School of Educational Training and Technology. Not surprisingly, in 2003 Kabir was awarded a CBE for services to education.

As regards the Commonwealth, Kabir is a member of the newly established Managing Committee for the Endowment Fund of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan – to which CEC and its members have made contributions, which we commended to the 2009 CHOGM in Trinidad, and for which we are planning a mail campaign addressed to Heads of Government and Ministers of Education. Kabir has also been Vice President of CASTME [Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators].

Kabir hopes to contribute to the CEC's work in all aspects of school education, technical and vocational education, inclusion and educational leadership and management.

Welcome back to the Board!

After a sabbatical year at the end of his nine-year term, Peter Williams has once again been elected to the CEC Governing Board. Clearly, his being closely in touch with what is happening around the Commonwealth, his commitment, creativity, deep wells of energy and effectiveness are all well recognised and appreciated by the CEC membership! Congratulations, Peter!

Please accept our very grateful thanks!

We need to thank a number of colleagues who have long been serving CEC selflessly and generously and have now come to the end of their terms of office.

Prime among them is our Executive Chair, ***Valerie Davey*** (although she will be working with Sally Keeble for the next few months). Valerie has since 2005 been steering us through some very lively times, notably the 2008 campaign on behalf of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and our 50th anniversary year, 2009.

Very soon after she accepted the chair in 2005, Valerie saw that CEC needed to pause, listen and think about what it was trying to do, how best to do it and how it might assess its effectiveness. The conference that she organised in 2007 succeeded in enabling us to clarify and order our priorities.

Very much a practical and hands-on person, Valerie has involved herself in delivering all the events to which CEC has committed itself. Characteristically, when CEC lost its Membership Secretary and could locate no immediate successor, Valerie stepped in and took over the role herself. And she has been a chair who knows how to keep a meeting to the point and to schedule without being in the least abrasive.

Equally characteristically, when she felt unable to accept a second term as Chair, she did not hand the search for a successor over to others, but formed a team for the job and was its most active member. We owe Sally's consent to succeed Valerie very much to Valerie.

We look forward to Valerie's continuing to support CEC in making itself ever better organised, ever more efficient and ever more effective in promoting more and better education throughout the Commonwealth.

Martin Kenyon has been a member for so long and has served CEC as Parliamentary

Liaison Officer and representative at successive meetings of Commonwealth Heads of Government and Education Ministers so well, that the Governing Board awarded him life membership several years ago. This year he completed a nine year term on the Board, and has now handed over to his successor, Daniel Hunt.

Martin's services to CEC have been so multifarious, of such quality and duration that an ordinary word of thanks seems entirely inadequate. CEC owes him much.

Geoffrey Hulme has also stepped down from the Governing Board after a goodly term of service. He and Martin are founding members of *Knowledge Aid for Sierra Leone (KASL)*, the project that is widening the availability of open educational resources and ICT skills to teachers and students in that country; and Geoffrey continues to chair its managing committee in the UK.

He has led CEC's efforts to make "open education resources" and "open source" computer software more readily accessible to the developing countries of the Commonwealth; and with Peter Williams and 'Chandra' Chandramohan contributed to the 2008 Pan-Commonwealth Forum on open and distance learning that the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) convened in London.

Tim Boswell, one of the CEC Parliamentary Chairs since 1997, retired from Parliament at the 2010 election and thus also relinquished his chairmanship of CEC. He has been consistently supportive of CEC's work. As Parliamentary Undersecretary for Education, then as Opposition Spokesman for Education and Skills and as Shadow Minister of Education, Tim has been well placed to keep abreast of the issues and was very active in raising questions in the House and putting down Early Day Motions. He also frequently arranged for us to have the use of rooms for special meetings and was always willing to

devote time to taking the chair – and being very convivial and effective at it. CEC owes him a great deal.

Tim has now been made a peer of the realm as Lord Boswell of Aynho in the County of Northamptonshire. We congratulate him and are delighted that we have yet another sympathiser in the House of Lords – although Tim himself fears that he may now not have as much leisure as he had hoped for on ceasing to be MP for Daventry.

The Future...

Next June our very long serving Hon. Secretary, Kees Maxey, and Hon. Treasurer, Richard Mawditt, will come to the end of their nine-year terms on the Governing Board. Their prospective stepping down will require CEC to use the coming months to search among the members for successors who will be able to match their commitment, reliability and efficiency.

As Richard has put CEC on a sound financial footing and built up a decent sum in the reserves, the job of Hon. Treasurer should be substantially less onerous and knotty than when Richard bravely undertook it.

If you have – or know someone who has – the skills – and the time! – to help with one, or even both, of these central and vital offices, please do let us know.

If you could afford the time, but feel that you would need to learn and be mentored in the necessary skills, do contact us!

Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group

Members will be aware of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) that the Trinidad CHOGM asked to be set up last November. Its goal was "to sharpen the impact, strengthen the networks, and raise the profile of the Commonwealth" and it would need to report to the Perth CHOGM in October, 2011. Its composition was finally announced on July 7th and it first met in London for two days on July 19th and 20th. Its ten members

are of course drawn from all regions of the Commonwealth and include three women and the Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP from the U.K. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, a former Prime Minister of Malaysia, chairs the Group.

Tun Abdullah has promised that the Group's work will be highly consultative and seeking views from all Commonwealth civil society and professional associations. One item of their plan is to launch a questionnaire on the Commonwealth Secretariat website.

CEC will of course be keeping a sharp lookout for the questionnaire, which has not yet appeared, and also for other opportunities for expressing its views. We will of course work in consultation with the Commonwealth Consortium for Education.

Some members have already contacted Sir Malcolm Rifkind on a personal basis: the more of us who do so, the stronger will be Sir Malcolm's appreciation of the strength of commitment of the more engaged sections of the British public to the Commonwealth and its values. Sir Malcolm can be reached at either the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or at his constituency office at 1A Chelsea Manor Street, London SW3 5RP – or by email: shaylorc@parliament.uk

Reconnecting with Government...

The change of government in May has of course made it necessary for CEC to form a fresh set of political contacts in the four departments important to our work: "Business, Innovation and Skills", "Education", "Foreign and Commonwealth Office" and "International Development". To give Secretaries of State and their Ministers time to settle in and prepare for the crucial October Review, CEC has held off from sending letters or seeking interviews.

However, as soon as Parliament reconvenes fully in early October, CEC will set about following up a number of issues. Among

them are [1] support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Programme and for its Endowment Fund, [2] the proposals for Global Education that Vernon Coaker and Mike Foster jointly initiated from the Department of Children, Schools and Families [now the Department of Education] and the Department for International Development (DFID), and [3] the implementation of the new strategy for education cooperation that DFID announced earlier this year. The third issue will require particular attention, as a memo on options leaked from DFID suggests that the strong emphasis and large funding given to education by the previous government may be reduced in favour of new priorities.

The 3-Year Plan for 2010-2013 also commits CEC to extending 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. We plan over the next year to create e-mail distribution lists for the All Party Groups that combine interests in Commonwealth countries with education and training.

The UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has always been supportive of our efforts to keep parliamentarians informed about the Commonwealth, so CEC will make a point of enhancing relations with its officers.

Annual Conference, 30 June 2010, "Including people with disabilities: celebrating Commonwealth experience"

At the 2010 CEC annual conference, some 60 CEC members and non-members were treated to a very rich survey of what countries in the Commonwealth were doing about the education of children and adults with disabilities – and of course what more remains to be done to fulfil the aims of the policies and laws that have been officially

adopted. The discussions underlined the limitations of policy and legal frameworks in transforming long ingrained cultural beliefs and attitudes towards disability.

This wealth of information and insight was the fruit of the wise decision to invite the cooperation of two well known organisations that specialise in working with people with disabilities: Leonard Cheshire Disability and SightSavers International. CEC is indebted to them for the huge contributions they made to the conference, from the initial design to the final delivery.

CEC is of course also indebted to the British Council, which again not only made its premises available, but also provided lunch and refreshments. To the relief of our Hon. Treasurer, the conference once again covered its costs.

Although there will be no printed record of the conference, at least some of the contributions to it will in due time be posted on the CEC website.

Also, CEC Projects Secretary, 'Chandra' Chandramohan will be reporting relevant points from the conference to the PCF6, the Pan-Commonwealth Forum on open and distance learning, which is to be held in Cochi, India, in November.

Education in Zimbabwe

A catastrophic situation: 90,000 teachers on strike, 8,000 schools shut, only 27 days of school during 2007, exam papers of 2008 still not marked, of \$18 million due from the Treasury for education, only \$5 million delivered, 15 pupils for every textbook available... This is the news from Zimbabwe that Senator David Coltart delivered to a CEC and parliamentary audience in Westminster Hall on July 21st. Senator Coltart is the current Zimbabwe Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and came to London for a fund-raising

conference organised by Link Community Development.

Word from Peter Williams and help from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association enabled CEC to mobilise the meeting in



partnership with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Zimbabwe. Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall, chairs the group, has taken an intense interest in the country for a

long time and willingly chaired the capacity-filled meeting.

Senator Coltart named three priorities for the rehabilitation of the education system.

1. the teachers need to regain their confidence in the government. Not only are the conditions for teaching abysmal, with buildings in disrepair and teaching materials scarce, but so are their salaries at an average of about £100 per month, as well as their housing conditions –bad in the towns, worse in the villages. They also needed to be freed from the attentions of the ZANU Youth Militia and forms of lawlessness that were prevalent in some areas.
2. the wherewithal to teach and learn – chalkboards, texts, habitable classrooms, desks- had to be restored.
3. school buildings simply had to be rehabilitated, especially in regard to toilets.

After these priorities had been met, the country could move on to areas like curriculum review and reform.

So far, the response from the international community had been guarded and relatively small-scale. No donor would give money to the government; all insisted in handing it

direct to agencies actually running schools. While UNICEF and the World Bank were helping to finance an Education Transition Fund that assisted with repairing buildings and the supply of textbooks, they were awaiting the development of an overall strategic plan, before providing substantial funds as grants or long term loans.

Senator Coltart recognised that constitutional reform and its successful implementation would be vital to convincing the donor community that investing in Zimbabwe's education system would not be a waste of money. Zimbabwe is currently not a member of the Commonwealth. However, Senator Coltart said that the desire to rejoin the association was widely felt in the country and would happen as soon as both sides assessed that the Harare principles were once again accepted and operational in the country.

The full 30 mins speech is available on the CEC website for you to listen to.

Language and the Commonwealth

A series of five seminars between February and July 2010 discussed the issue of language in and between the countries of the Commonwealth and culminated in a symposium in July on *Commonwealth and the language challenge: identity, governance and global partnerships*. The initiative and organising energy for the series came from CEC Governing Board member and Projects Secretary, Dr B. Chandramohan (Chandra), with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, at the University of London acting as host.

In a cross-disciplinary exchange, experts from the fields of language, linguistics, media studies and public policy making explored the Commonwealth dimension in their respective specialist areas. The structure of the series focused on the linguistic commonality (English as lingua franca) and diversity in national contexts of 'old' (UK, South Africa and Canada), 'new'

(Zambia, India and Pakistan) and 'recent' (Mozambique) members of the Commonwealth. Questions of the status of pidgins and creoles in the Commonwealth were also discussed, as were issues relating to the roots and routes of migration of the English language across the Atlantic to the Caribbean.

The series attracted staff and students from the Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London (UCL, Birkbeck, SOAS, School of Advanced Studies), other universities in London (Westminster and Thames Valley) and from Aberystwyth in Wales. Participants also included current and former staff of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation and Royal Commonwealth Society.

The Institute of Commonwealth Studies organised an exhibition of books and other academic resources on language policy and practice in the Commonwealth available in their library and archives, while the Québec Government Office in London kindly provided material on language policy and practice in that province of Canada.

The success of the series and symposium is reflected in the decision of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies to continue with the Series in 2010-11. Chandra will again be organising it and will be making details available in due course on the CEC website.

Chandra would like to thank CEC members for their support, encouragement and participation in the seminars and symposium, in particular Dr Casmir Chanda for presenting a seminar on education in Zambia.

Citizenship and the Commonwealth 2010 Commonwealth Conference, 10th–12th November, 2010, Cumberland Lodge

Chandra will also be giving a paper at this first Commonwealth Conference, which will be exploring what it means to be a citizen of

the Commonwealth in the 21st century. He will be discussing “*Commonwealth citizenship through international and transnational education: practice, possibilities and limitations*”.

The conference is part of the programme for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, will feature speakers from a number of Commonwealth countries and will invite a Commonwealth Scholar to respond to each of the main papers.

First Benefactor Member

CEC is happy and grateful to announce that it has made Lady Grace Thomson its first Benefactor Member in recognition of her longstanding, loyal and continuous generous support, both moral and financial. Her husband, Lord George Thomson, was one of the founders of CEC in 1959, when the first Commonwealth Education Conference at Oxford inspired him and some other Parliamentarians to establish a body that would have as its main mission promoting education and education cooperation throughout the Commonwealth.

Lady Grace has clearly felt that CEC has remained true to her husband’s vision and continues to deserve her support. Despite her currently restricted mobility, she made a point of attending the briefing that the Commonwealth Secretary General gave CEC in February on the Trinidad CHOGM.

Benefactor Membership

In 2009, CEC created a new category of membership, the Benefactor Member. CEC intends to offer it to anyone who donates a sum larger than ten annual subscriptions, which are the present qualification for Life Membership. Currently, with the annual individual subscription set at £30.00, Life Membership would cost £300.00,

Talking of Membership...

The Membership Team would appreciate reinforcement by someone with skills in

databases. If you have such skills and think you might have time to help, do contact Valerie Davey at valeriedaveybr@yahoo.co.uk or on 0117 909 3491.

And Your Will – and CEC

The Council for Education in the Commonwealth depends on its members for many things.

- It has members who are educational experts in their fields;
- It has a very strong connection to Parliament and the political process;
- It has a dedicated group of members who provide both funds (through their subscriptions) to the CEC as well support for its meetings and conferences.

Because of these strengths, CEC has become a leading organisation in promoting the cause of education in all parts of the Commonwealth.

To be able to do this, it has to have the resources. The reality is that it is run on a financial shoe string. It does get some grants – but these are all restricted in what they can be used for. Its basic finances are very limited.

You could make a difference to the future work of the Council, if you were to leave a legacy to the CEC. Such a contribution to the future work of the Council would allow our successors to be able to continue to promote the aims of education in the Commonwealth without always having to worry about the resources needed.

Professor Guido de Marco

CEC is sad to have the news of the death of Professor Guido de Marco, former President of Malta, “a tireless and passionate advocate for the voice of civil society”, in the words of Commonwealth Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma. Guido Marco certainly was a strong supporter of the Commonwealth and had been Chairman of

the Commonwealth Foundation. In 2008, he came immediately to the aid of the CEC campaign for the integrity of the U.K. Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Programme, agreeing without hesitation to sign the protest letter to *The Times*. The loss of allies like Guido de Marco is ill afforded.

Future Events

WAMM Although CEC did not send any representatives to WAMM, (Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting), we hope for a report back from the leader of the UK delegation, Helene Reardon-Bond, OBE, currently Head of Gender Equality Policy and Inclusion at the Government Equalities Office. Information on date, time and place will be disseminated, as soon as the details are settled.

Namibia, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu To mark decadal anniversaries of the accession of these four small states to the Commonwealth CEC has partnered with the Research Centre for International and Comparative Studies (ICS) at the University of Bristol to deliver a half-day seminar on "**Educational Policies and Priorities in Commonwealth Small States**". A panel of speakers from the four High Commissions will respond to the research findings, conclusions and proposals for policy and action of Prof. Michael Crossley, Steve Packer and Terra Sprague.

The date is **Monday, October 25th**, the venue at the Graduate School of Education, and the start time 12.00 noon with a light lunch.

Register by Thursday, 21 October!

Registration forms available on websites www.cecomm.org.uk , www.smallstates.net

or from Valerie Davey, 29 Norton Road, Bristol BS4 2EZ The £10 registration fee is payable by cheque to 'CEC'.

Gladwyn Lecture 2010 Nigeria celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence this year and its progress in education will be the focus of this year's Gladwyn Lecture in the House of Lords. CEC is delighted that the Britain-Nigeria Education Trust and CREATE (Consortium for Research in Equity, Access and Transition in Education of Sussex University and the Institute of Education) have agreed to partner it for the occasion. The Nigeria High Commissioner will of course be invited to play a part, in the same way as the High Commissioners of Ghana, India and Sri Lanka were in 2007 and 2008. The expected date is December 7th or 8th. Full details will be circulated, as soon as they are firm.

Websites

Much information about CEC and its activities can be found at its website, www.cecomm.org.uk, which the Honorary Secretary and his family keep up-to-date.

"Knowledge Aid for Sierra Leone" (KASL) is a project supported by CEC since 2001. Like similar projects it has a constant need for support. Its history and aims are set out at <http://knowledgeaid.wordpress.com/>

A third website of interest to CEC members is <http://commonwealthwomensvoices.wordpress.com/> , an initiative by Rosemary Preston and Mo Sibbons in 2009 to give, as the title says, Commonwealth women a voice about their experiences in being educated and later in promoting education for others.

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