



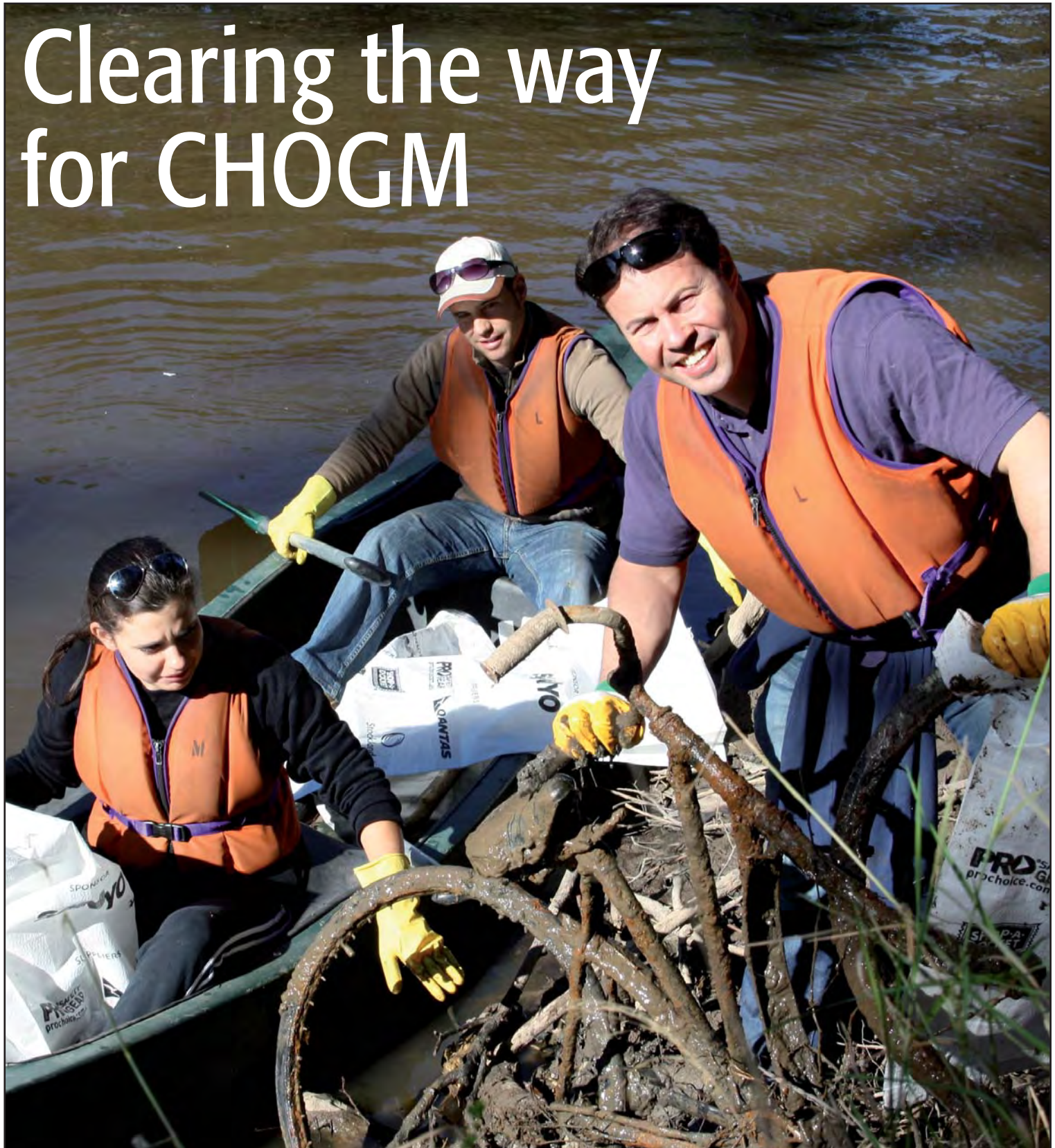
COMMONWEALTH  
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 14  
July 2011

# Clearing the way for CHOGM



OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS · COUNTRY PROFILE – AUSTRALIA · NEWS ROUND-UP  
OUR ALUMNI · NEW ECONOMICS AND FINANCE PROFESSIONAL NETWORK · NETWORKS AND EVENTS



# THIS ISSUE EDITORIAL

## Cover Josh Frydenberg

(1996 Commonwealth Scholar, MPhil International Relations, University of Oxford) (right) participating in a local clean-up event for Clean Up Australia Day – read more about Josh on page 12

## 2 Editorial

## 3 News round-up

The latest from the Commonwealth Scholarships community.

## 4 Our Scholars and Fellows

An insight into the work of our current award holders.

## 6 Sailing with the Sea Shepherds

A Commonwealth Scholar describes his unusual fieldwork experience on board an anti-whaling ship.

## 8 Commonwealth Heads of Government congregate in Perth

Looking ahead to the forthcoming CHOGM in October 2011.

## 10 Our alumni

News and career updates from our former award holders.

## 12 Alumni profile

Three Commonwealth Scholars from Australia share their achievements.

## 13 Entrepreneurship, new media and business

How one of our alumni has made it big in the business world.

## 14 Our impact

Analysis and news from the CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Programme.

## 16 Networks and events

Reports from recent events attended by Scholars, Fellows and alumni.

## 17 CSFP News

An update on the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

## 18 Country profile – Australia

A closer look at the CSFP in operation internationally.

This issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News* marks two important milestones. Firstly, it looks ahead to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Australia, in October this year, by celebrating the achievements of Australian alumni (see pages 12 and 19).

Secondly, it marks the launch of the CSC's new Professional Network in Economics and Finance. This new network will focus on issues of interest to current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows working directly in or in areas related to economics, finance, and business, in both the private and the public sector. It will also cater for researchers based in universities and research centres (find out how you can join on pages 16-17).

This issue also features alumni from across the Commonwealth with careers in the fields of economics and finance. Asheesh Advani shares his experience of starting his own company and overseeing its expansion and later acquisition (see page 13). Many other alumni also hold senior positions in these areas, working in government ministries, national central banks, and even research institutes with a focus on building the capacity of business to strengthen communities through microfinance initiatives.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission must be commended for providing generations of students and professionals, particularly from less developed and emerging market economies, with significant opportunities to deepen their technical skill and knowhow, expand their global outlook, and exchange ideas on how economic, social and scientific progress can be harnessed to create a better world for everyone.

I had the good fortune of receiving both a Commonwealth Scholarship, to pursue doctoral studies in economics at Queen Mary, University of London in 1991, and a Commonwealth Fellowship, to pursue postdoctoral research on trade policy and modelling at the University of Nottingham in 2000. Both of these opportunities enabled me to make some important academic, business, and policy contacts in the UK, Europe, North America, and Africa. I gained a solid understanding of how global markets function, and the awards allowed me to engage in important research and policy analysis with a network of people throughout the Commonwealth. My research, especially on trade modelling and policy, gained greater international attention and prominence and provided the catalyst for me to play a significant role in policy formulation, not only in my home country of Trinidad and Tobago, but also in the wider Caribbean region.

I do believe that by providing a professional forum for ongoing collaboration, the new CSC Professional Network can help policymakers and researchers throughout the Commonwealth find solutions to pressing problems and thereby unlock the true potential of their respective countries. In a world where uncertainty is the order of the day, this ongoing collaboration is one of the keys to economic survival and sustainable development.

The Economics and Finance Professional Network will not just make a difference to educational advancement in many countries; it will also help citizens to contribute more effectively to the steady and sustainable development of their own societies and, by extension, the world.

## Shelton Nicholls

Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Economics, Queen Mary, University of London, 1991-1994

Commonwealth Fellow, Economics, University of Nottingham, 2000-2001



## Commonwealth Scholarships News

### Editorial Team:

Dr John Kirkland  
Jocelyn Law  
Nyssa Lee-Woolf  
Natasha Lokhun

### Design and Print:

Innovative Output Solutions

*Commonwealth Scholarships News* is published twice a year by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom.

### Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities  
Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square  
London, WC1H 9HF, UK

[comments@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:comments@cscuk.org.uk)

[www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk)

# NEWS ROUND-UP

## 2011 SELECTIONS

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has made its selections for the 2011/2012 academic year, for the following schemes:

Commonwealth Scholarships for candidates from developing Commonwealth countries, for Master's or PhD study (including Split-site Scholarships and scholarships to academic staff): **252**

Commonwealth Scholarships for candidates from developed Commonwealth countries, for PhD study: **18**

Commonwealth Academic Fellowships, for university staff from developing countries: **58**

Commonwealth Professional Fellowships, for mid-career professionals from developing countries (Round 1): **65**

## COMMONWEALTH JUBILEE TIME CAPSULE

In honour of HM Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is assembling the world's biggest online time capsule, covering each day of her 60-year headship of the Commonwealth.

The Jubilee Time Capsule aims to be a people's history from all over the Commonwealth. The RCS wants to hear from you about events in your own families, communities and

countries during this period. Until March 2012, you can enter your own history about a day in the last 60 years which is important to you or your country.



This is a chance to take part in the world's biggest online history time capsule, win some good prizes, and share your stories. The Jubilee Time Capsule will form a prominent Commonwealth dimension and digital legacy for Her Majesty's

Diamond Jubilee in 2012. For more information, visit [www.jubileetimecapsule.org](http://www.jubileetimecapsule.org)

## GOODENOUGH COLLEGE

Goodenough College is an independent college for international postgraduate students. It provides not only excellent accommodation and study facilities, but also a lively and encouraging community, which is renowned for its tolerance and international understanding.

As a distinctive academic and professional community of over 650 members from 90 countries, the College encourages intellectual exchange through workshops, seminars, conferences, and cultural, artistic and sporting activities. Positioned in the academic heart



*Goodenough College, London*

College is an ideal environment for international networking.

Goodenough College would be delighted to welcome any Commonwealth Scholars or Fellows who return to London to pursue further postgraduate study. The College also offers a fantastic choice of rooms and its own catering, available for events. The Goodenough Club, which is part of the College, offers recently refurbished 4-star hotel accommodation at competitive rates. For further

of London, within walking distance of the major universities and research institutions in London, the

details, visit [www.goodenough.ac.uk](http://www.goodenough.ac.uk) or email [info@goodenough.ac.uk](mailto:info@goodenough.ac.uk)

## NEW BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO GHANA

HE Mr Peter Jones took up his post as British High Commissioner to Ghana in May 2011. Since arriving in Accra, he has been pleased to discover that 'historical connections between the UK and Ghana remain a positive bedrock for the relationship'.

He says 'We are pursuing a broad agenda across the High Commission and the DFID office, including not just core political, development, commercial, and visa work, but also a broader range of cooperation in areas such as police and anti-drugs work. There are a striking range of issues and threats common to both the UK and Ghana. Our biggest asset is strong people-to-people contact between the two countries. The Ghanaian diaspora community in the UK is estimated to be about half a million strong, and there are many people with a foot in both countries.

'The Commonwealth gives an added dimension to our work. 2011 is an important year for Commonwealth renewal, centred around the Heads of

Government Meeting in Perth. We are working closely with Ghana and other Commonwealth partners to make this a real success. We are fortunate that Ghana itself is playing a leading role through its leadership of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group and providing a member of the Eminent Persons Group producing proposals for adapting the Commonwealth to the priorities of the future.'

Education remains a critical theme for the High Commissioner. 'It is a significant part of the UK's development agenda in Ghana for the next four years, as we work to achieve ambitious targets for ensuring more out-of-school children attend school, training more teachers, and ensuring more girls attend high school. The British Council has a leading role in this too, promoting connections between young people in both countries, as part of its work to encourage professional, educational, and cultural links.'

Peter says 'I am confident that the future for UK/Ghana relations is very rosy, and I'm looking forward to helping take them forward'.



# OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

*This issue features a selection of our most recent Commonwealth Academic and Professional Fellows, who share what they have learnt during their awards, and how this will shape their careers.*

## PHARMACOLOGY RESEARCH TO HELP TREAT CANCER



**Maruf Ahmed**, Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Bangladesh

Dr Maruf Ahmed is a 2010 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Bangladesh, based at the University of Wolverhampton. His fellowship focused on the molecular pharmacology of rhenylogically-organised cell penetrating peptides, in particular, to check if these peptides are able to kill cancer cells. Maruf hopes that his fellowship will help him to continue his biomedical research back home.

'I had a dream to further my pharmacology research in the UK. Since my childhood, I have known that England is the Mecca for medical science. It has the modern equipment and technology available, and I found my laboratory extremely suitable for such advanced research.

'I enjoyed the environment of the university laboratory where I worked. All my colleagues were extremely cooperative and I am proud to be a part of their team. I have also contributed to a manuscript intended to be published soon.

'This fellowship has given me ample chance to experience modern research in a developed country like the UK. I have talked to my supervisor in the UK about beginning a joint collaboration with my department in Bangladesh. I hope students in my department will also experience modern research and education through this collaboration.

'My fellowship has provided immense benefit to my research and teaching career. I have learned advanced technologies and theories which I can share with my colleagues and students in the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Rajshahi. I am proud to be a Commonwealth Academic Fellow.'

## CONTROLLING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN LIVESTOCK



**Ajit Singh**, Commonwealth Academic Fellow at the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright

Dr Ajit Singh, from India, also held a 2010 Commonwealth Academic Fellowship, at the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright. 'My fellowship was aimed at veterinary immunology. Modern methods of investigation were employed and the findings of my study could be useful for the development of immunotherapeutic agents and novel adjuvants for veterinary vaccines.

'Being home to world-renowned scientific institutions and the opportunity to interact with experts in the field were my main reasons for studying in the UK. I found the UK the land of people that promote learning and improvement of the human condition, and encourage acquisition and testing of the greatest human values.

'I would very much like and hope to start a collaborative programme for developing tools and strategies for the control of infectious diseases in domestic animals in the near future. I hope that joint programmes can be initiated for reliable diagnostic tests, safer and more efficacious vaccines, establishing scientific networks, and so on.

'My fellowship benefited me in more than one manner. The knowledge I have gained here will help to address the problems of infectious diseases confronting the livestock industry which could be better reviewed. I have explored potential areas for future collaboration, acquired new scientific skills and upgraded my current ones, and broadened my social and cultural horizons.'

## EXAMINING LINKS BETWEEN GOLD MINING AND ARSENIC CONTAMINATION

2010 Commonwealth Academic Fellow Dr Eureka Adomako, from Ghana, was based at the University of Aberdeen – the same institution at which she completed her PhD in 2008 on a Commonwealth

Scholarship. 'My research involved conducting soil analyses to establish the extent of arsenic contamination in selected Ghanaian gold mining-impacted paddy fields; setting up pot experiments to better understand some of the factors that influence arsenic accumulation and speciation in rice plants; and examining arsenic speciation in rice grains sourced from Ghanaian markets.

'I am particularly proud of the new contacts that were established during my fellowship, since these provide the opportunity to facilitate research links between my host and home universities and countries. I am currently helping to plan a meeting to be held in Accra, Ghana, in August 2011 between researchers from the University of Aberdeen and Ghanaian counterparts to explore synergies for addressing pertinent environmental pollution, law and development issues.



**Eureka Adomako**, 2010 Commonwealth Academic Fellow

'The benefits I derived from the Commonwealth Academic Fellowship are not easily quantifiable. My experiences in the UK have broadened my outlook on life and redefined my goals and aspirations. Improved research and networking skills are just the icing on the cake.'

## BUILDING BRIDGES IN UGANDA

Jonathan Tugume works for the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and came to the UK in September 2010 on a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship hosted by Mott MacDonald (an international management, engineering and development consultancy).

Jonathan's month-long fellowship programme began at Mott MacDonald's Southampton offices, where he

# IN YOUR OWN WORDS

*Alexandra Murray is a 2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, studying at the University of Oxford. She explains how she has benefited from her scholarship, and what she plans to do afterwards.*

learnt about the Albania Bridge Management System, as well as projects undertaken by the firm on the UK's trunk roads and motorway network. He then visited Bristol, where he participated in inspection, data collection, and analysis of bridges. Jonathan also spent time with the company's bridge specialist team in Croydon, where he visited various rehabilitated structures and attended meetings to discuss the techniques and analytical methods used in the evaluation and design of the structures.

Mott MacDonald believes that the benefits of hosting Professional Fellows include a better understanding of the issues and problems faced in developing countries, and the opportunity to strengthen ties with a client. The company feels that its UK staff have learned a great deal about UNRA and the challenges it faces.

Jonathan himself also reports positively on his fellowship. 'I brought home practical skills in the inspection and analysis of existing bridge structures and a richer understanding of bridge repair and strengthening techniques. In addition, I have acquired working skills on design requirements and applications for long-span bridges.

'My fellowship will go a long way to inform my current involvement in the delivery of the bridge maintenance and reconstruction program at the Uganda National Roads Authority. I feel better prepared for my role in delivering the upcoming design and construction of the first long-span cable-stayed bridge in Uganda, a project I am privileged to have been part of from its inception. Having experienced the realm of capabilities and competencies of firms like Motts, I am especially keen to ensure that UNRA draws the most from future service contracts with similar global consultants.'



**Jonathan Tugume**, Commonwealth Professional Fellow at Mott MacDonald

I am studying a cross between psychology and neuroscience. In some ways, it is very basic science to help the understanding of the visual system – what the limits of processing are and how we can modify what is prioritised and successfully maintained. During my time as a DPhil student, I have conducted many behavioural experiments and have collected neuroimaging data, and I have been lucky enough to work with experts in the analysis of this data, so I am hoping to take these skills back to Australia.

Ever since I was a little girl, I have had a very romantic idea of one day doing a postgraduate degree in the UK. It has been such an incredible experience; for example, my college has a history dating back to the 13th century. For someone who comes from a country where European settlement was just over 200 years ago, it is completely mind-blowing! Culturally, I have found it more different from Australia than I expected, so it has been nice to learn about the UK and British people. I have had some opportunities while I have been here to travel around the UK and it is a truly beautiful country (especially in summer!).

During the past three years, I have had some great times and met some truly fascinating people, both through my course and college and through the Commonwealth network. In my second year, I was coordinator of the Oxford and Midlands Regional Network. The highlight of that time was the Rhodes and Commonwealth cricket match, where Commonwealth came through right at the end to take the match and a celebratory BBQ was enjoyed by all! In addition, this year we had the opportunity to hear Sonia Gandhi speak in London as part of the celebrations for Commonwealth Day, under the theme 'Women as Agents of Change'. It was such a wonderful night and to hear such an influential

woman speak openly was a great experience. Also, I was lucky enough to attend a weekend at Cumberland Lodge where Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows from all over the UK came together to discuss democracy and human rights. That was one weekend that I will remember for the rest of my life. It made me realise how rich and diverse the Commonwealth truly is.

Ultimately, I want to return to Australia and somehow use the research skills that I have

developed while being here. That could be as an academic, directly passing on the techniques that I have learnt (in a similar field), or applying the skills I have to studying mental illnesses and disorders. During my time as a postgraduate student, I believe that it has been important to get the basic science correct, before applying it to complex (and possibly more ecologically valid) situations. Oxford is definitely one of the best places in the world to refine these skills.

*My Commonwealth Scholarship made it possible for me to do what I always thought was impossible.*

Without a Commonwealth Scholarship, I simply would not be at Oxford. I came from a rural background; my (now retired) parents were macadamia farmers in northern New South Wales. All through high school and my undergraduate degree, I never really thought I could actually go to the UK to study. Few people from my area have a university degree and the idea of doing a postgraduate degree overseas is almost ridiculous to some. Although it sounds clichéd, my Commonwealth Scholarship made it possible for me to do what I always thought was impossible. I am now in my final year of my DPhil and a whole range of future possibilities are opening up in front of me. I am so grateful to be given this opportunity.



# SAILING WITH THE SEA SHEPHERDS



**Teale Bondaroff** on shore, next to the Bob Barker

*Teale Phelps Bondaroff is a 2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, studying at the University of Cambridge. He described the subject of his PhD thesis – the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society – in Issue 12 of Commonwealth Scholarships News (May 2010). Here, he provides an update on his fieldwork experience accompanying the organisation during a recent anti-whaling campaign.*

I have recently returned from the Southern Ocean and Antarctica, where I was conducting fieldwork on the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's (Sea Shepherd) anti-whaling campaign. I spent three months engaging in participant observation on board the Sea Shepherd vessel the *Bob Barker* as it engaged in 'Operation No Compromise,' from December 2010 to March 2011. Operation No Compromise was Sea Shepherd's seventh campaign against Japanese Antarctic whaling, which Sea Shepherd argues is illegal and a commercial hunt, while Japan maintains its whaling is for research purposes. The *Bob Barker* spent 95 days at sea, and was at the heart of an action-packed campaign.

I am a Commonwealth Scholar in the second year of my PhD at the University of Cambridge, in the Department of Politics and International Studies. My research in general looks at the strategies of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in international affairs, and specifically examines the strategy of Sea Shepherd. Sea Shepherd is a marine conservation organisation which engages in confrontational direct action on the high seas. Founded in the late 1970s, it campaigns on a variety of marine issues and, since 2005, it has been actively campaigning against Japanese whaling in Antarctica. Sea Shepherd employs a wide range of direct action tactics aimed at disrupting whaling operations, which have included throwing canisters of butyric acid (stink bombs, which contaminate whale meat and make decks unworkable), throwing cellulose powder (to make decks slippery), attempting to disable whaling vessels by entangling prop fouling lines in their propellers, and boarding whaling ships. While its tactics remain controversial and confrontational, none of them have ever resulted in any casualties or serious injury, either on the part of the activists or their opponents.

Sea Shepherd campaigns have had a tangible impact on Japanese whaling. Since campaigns started in the Southern Ocean, the number of whales caught by

the whalers has gradually declined, and the whalers have failed to meet their self-imposed quotas for the past five seasons. This season was Sea Shepherd's most successful campaign to date: the whalers caught only 10 per cent of their quota and ended their operations a month early, blaming repeated harassment from Sea Shepherd. Sea Shepherd campaigns have also brought international attention to bear on Antarctic whaling.

What makes the study of Sea Shepherd interesting from an international relations perspective is that international incidents emerge as a result of the nature of Sea Shepherd's campaign strategy. Such incidents, including last season's ramming and sinking of a Sea Shepherd vessel by a Japanese security vessel, have focused public and government attention on whaling. The pressure created by numerous incidents can be seen as one of the reasons why Australia, after so many years of inaction, recently decided to pursue Japan in the International Court of Justice over the issue of Antarctic whaling.

The Sea Shepherd campaign has gradually been growing in size, and this year three vessels were launched: two large vessels, the *Bob Barker* and *Steve Irwin*, and the newly-acquired speedboat *Gojira*. The combined crews of the three ships comprised 88 volunteers, from 23 different countries, as well as a film crew shooting the fourth season of the hit American cable television series *Whale Wars*. The whaling fleet, on the other hand, comprised the *Nisshin Maru* (the factory ship), and three harpoon vessels: the *Yushin Maru*, *Yushin Maru* #2, and *Yushin Maru* #3, the latter of which was also equipped with high-powered water cannons and doubled as the whalers' security vessel.

My fieldwork began upon my arrival in Hobart, Tasmania, in late November 2010, where I spent a week familiarising myself with the crew and vessels prior to the start of the campaign. The Sea Shepherd

fleet split up, and the *Bob Barker* set sail for the Southern Ocean.

On a mid-December evening, towering out of the mist loomed the massive form of the first iceberg of the campaign – and the first iceberg I have ever seen. More would follow, and we were soon among the white giants. The ice we encountered took on every conceivable shape, from tiny floating growlers which assumed twisted and phantasmagoric forms, to large columns and arches rising from the azure sea which would have made an architect weep, to massive tabletop icebergs stretching for miles, appearing like the cliffs of Dover. The palette of colours contained in the icebergs were also incredible; these floating marvels contained infinite shades of blue, grey, purple, and even yellows and greens. The waves beating against their sides produced a thunderous percussion. Nearly every iceberg was accompanied by a squadron of sea birds, and the ship would be buzzed by snow petrels and albatross as we approached these frozen wonders.

Antarctica is a land which challenges your vocabulary as you search for adjectives to describe it. In addition to ice, we encountered all manner of Antarctic wildlife. Throughout the course of the campaign, it was not uncommon to look out of the porthole and see a crabeater seal lounging on an iceberg or a dinner party of Adelie or King penguins. And, of course, we encountered whales. We were accompanied by orcas and dolphins as we departed Hobart, and throughout our sojourn in the ice we encountered numerous fin, minke and humpback whales.

In amongst this beauty, the *Bob Barker* and its crew searched for the whaling fleet. We encountered the first harpoon vessel on New Year's Eve, as did the *Steve Irwin*; the whalers then processed to tail the Sea Shepherd vessels. This was problematic, as it meant that the harpoon vessels were able to relay

the Sea Shepherd ships' positions to the factory ship, allowing it to stay outside of the radar range of the Sea Shepherd vessels. This prevented Sea Shepherd from encountering the factory ship and blocking its slipway, which would prevent whaling and was the ultimate goal of the campaign.

Over the course of January, several attempts were made to delay or disable the trailing harpoon vessels long enough to allow the Sea Shepherd vessels to escape beyond the radar horizon and search for the factory ship unimpeded. In these engagements, Sea Shepherd would launch fast boats which would harass the harpoon vessel, zipping around the large manoeuvrable vessels, coming perilously close in order to drop prop foulers and throw smoke flares and butyric acid. At one stage the whalers reciprocated, throwing long bamboo poles at the rigid inflatable fast boats in what could only have been an attempt to puncture the small crafts. During one engagement, the fast boat crews successfully planted a tracking device on the trailing harpoon vessel, which helped Sea Shepherd locate the whaling fleet's refuelling vessel some days later. The Sea Shepherd fleet converged on the tanker and sought to block any attempts at refuelling; none were made. The *Bob Barker* tailed the tanker until it had exited the whaling ground, at which point it disengaged and resumed its search for the factory ship for the remainder of January, the task encumbered by the trailing harpoon vessel.

The high action continued, and an additional attempt to lose our vessel's shadow was made on 3rd February, this time with the assistance of the *Gojira*. The Sea Shepherd boats sped at the *Yushin Maru* #3, and the harried harpoon vessel zigzagged this way and that, thrashing about like a wounded animal, spray and mist rising from its high-powered water cannons. After many hours, the bow and wheelhouse of the harpoon vessel were peppered with paint, and the ship ground to a halt. It remained dead in the water for at least the next three days,

which afforded the *Bob Barker* more than enough time to disappear into the icy Ross Sea.

This was unarguably the turning point of the campaign, and the elation of the crew at finally having escaped our shadow was only eclipsed a week later when the *Gojira* discovered the factory ship. Our vessel quickly intercepted the *Nisshin Maru* and, after some delicate manoeuvring against the repaired *Yushin Maru* #3, assumed a position behind the ship's slipway. The *Bob Barker* maintained this position for the next two weeks, and the *Yushin Maru* #3 followed the *Bob Barker*. As the pursuit drew on, the *Nisshin Maru* drew closer to the Drake Passage at the southern horn of South America, which contains the overlapping territorial claims of several states – a veritable political minefield. In potentially passing through the waters of several anti-whaling states, such as Chile and Argentina, the whaling fleet was challenging these states to take action and risked potentially serious consequences.

The incident which unfolded was the most significant event of the campaign from an international relations perspective. As the factory ship drew closer to Chilean waters, the Chilean government declared that it would send a naval vessel to intercept the *Nisshin Maru* should it enter its waters. This was sufficient to drive away the trailing harpoon vessel, and the *Yushin Maru* #3 disengaged just prior to entering Chilean Antarctic waters. The *Nisshin Maru* maintained its easterly course, until the morning of 18th February, when it



**Teale Bondaroff** taking notes while at sea

abruptly turned off its water cannons and turned north, just prior to entering Chilean continental territorial waters. The whalers were apparently unwilling to test Chile's resolve.

On the same day, the Japanese government announced an early end to their whaling season. The following day, the *Bob Barker* disengaged from the *Nisshin Maru* and set a course for Hobart. The two large Sea Shepherd ships were met by a cheering crowd upon their arrival, as well as the Australian Federal Police, who raided and searched the vessels.

The campaign was an amazing adventure, as well as an incredibly valuable research experience. Over the course of my fieldwork, I gathered a wealth of material on Sea Shepherd and the campaign, and disembarked from the *Bob Barker* with a veritable library of material, totalling nearly 2,000 pages of field notes. I am grateful to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission for their continued support of my research, and to my partner Stephanie, who was my only link to the outside world through our sporadic emails.



# COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONGREGATE IN PERTH

*Every two years, Commonwealth leaders meet at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to discuss global and Commonwealth issues, and to agree on collective policies and initiatives. The next CHOGM will be held in Perth, Australia, from 28-30 October 2011.*

## WHAT IS CHOGM?

Commonwealth leaders have held regular meetings since the formation of the Commonwealth in 1959. The name 'Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting' was adopted at a meeting in Singapore in 1971.

CHOGMs act as the principal policy and decision-making forum of the Commonwealth, guiding its strategic direction. The meetings begin with a formal opening ceremony and a formal executive session. After this, the leaders meet in a private 'retreat'.

CHOGM offers Commonwealth leaders two unique opportunities. Firstly, the informal atmosphere of the retreats encourages full and frank discussion, as well as decision-making based on consensus. Secondly, these meetings enable those countries with a lower international profile – 32 out of the 54 member countries of the Commonwealth are classified as small states – to meet and discuss matters with more powerful states on an equal footing.

In recent years, civil society and other groups have also held meetings alongside CHOGM. In 2011, parallel events include the Commonwealth Youth Forum (23-27 October), Commonwealth People's Forum (25-27 October), and the Commonwealth Business Forum (25-27 October).

Some of the important discussions and decisions at CHOGMs have included:

- majority rule and independence for Zimbabwe (Lusaka 1979)
- sanctions against South Africa and the encouragement of the end of apartheid (Nassau 1985, London 1986, Vancouver 1987, Kuala Lumpur 1989, Harare 1991)
- nuclear testing in the Pacific (Auckland 1995)
- Zimbabwe's suspension then departure from Commonwealth membership (Abuja 2003)



## CHOGM 2011 PERTH, AUSTRALIA

## CHOGM 2009

The last CHOGM was held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009, under the theme 'Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future'.

Climate change was the major topic of discussion, ahead of COP 15, the UN Climate Change Conference (otherwise known as the Copenhagen Summit), held in early December. In recognition of the degree of global concern, as well as the fact that many Commonwealth states are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the UN Secretary-General, the President of France, and the Prime Minister of Denmark were also invited to a Special Session on Climate Change at the CHOGM – the first time that non-Commonwealth leaders have attended the meeting.

## CHOGM 2011

The theme for this year's CHOGM is 'Building National Resilience, Building Global Resilience'. One major topic of discussion on the agenda will be the report of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the future of the Commonwealth.

The EPG was established at the 2009 CHOGM, where Commonwealth leaders called for the 'creation of an Eminent Persons Group to undertake an examination of options for reform in order to bring the Commonwealth's many institutions into a stronger and more effective framework of co-operation and partnership'.

The EPG has been tasked with developing options for reform to sharpen the impact, strengthen the networks, and raise the profile of the Commonwealth. It comprises the following members:

- Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (Chairperson) – former Prime Minister of Malaysia

- Dr Emmanuel O Akwetey – founding Executive Director of the Institute for Democratic Governance, Ghana
- Patricia Francis – Executive Director of the International Trade Centre
- Dr Asma Jahangir – Chair of the Human Rights Commission, Pakistan
- Mr Samuel Kavuma – student leader in Uganda and interim Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Caucus
- The Hon Michael Kirby – former Justice of the High Court of Australia
- Dr Graça Machel – former Minister of Education and Culture, Mozambique
- Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind – former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, UK
- Sir Ronald Sanders – former Caribbean senior diplomat
- Senator Hugh Segal – member of the Canadian Senate
- Sir Jeremia Tabai – first President of Kiribati

The EPG met four times between July 2010 and March 2011, and received over 230 written submissions from Commonwealth organisations, as well as numerous communications from individuals, all of which will feed into its report to leaders at the 2011 CHOGM.

At the end of their last meeting, the group stated 'The Commonwealth is in danger of becoming irrelevant and unconvincing as a values-based association. To safeguard against this danger we will recommend to leaders the adoption of proposals that will strengthen the Commonwealth, both as an association of governments and of peoples'.

In keeping with the consultative nature of the process to date, the EPG invited comments on the outline of its report in May 2011, ahead of preparing the final version for CHOGM. The general direction of its recommendations includes:

## Championing values

- A 'Charter of the Commonwealth' developed by and for Commonwealth citizens
- Appointing a Commissioner for Democracy and the Rule of Law to provide objective information





© Commonwealth Secretariat

(l-r) Prime Minister of Bangladesh **Sheikh Hasina**, UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, Prime Minister of Australia **Kevin Rudd**, and Prime Minister of Denmark **Lars Rasmussen** discuss climate change at the 2009 CHOGM

to the Commonwealth Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)

- Consolidating and expanding the range of measures available to the Secretary-General and to CMAG to better respond where Commonwealth values are violated
- Establishing academies for democracy and election training
- Strengthening the culture of democracy and of democratic leadership through broadening the terms and work of Commonwealth election observers, and providing sound parliamentary advice

#### Enhancing the Commonwealth's role in development and trade

- Maintaining development at the heart of the Commonwealth's advocacy work
- Maximising the influence of Commonwealth member states acting together in organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Bank, as well as in the G20
- Safeguarding and increasing a dedicated budget for the Commonwealth Secretariat's 'technical assistance work'
- Heads of Government taking a collective interest in the debt challenges of developing countries
- Convening a meeting for Commonwealth Ministers responsible for foreign trade to try to reach a consensus on a set of initiatives that could help to bring the current Doha Round of negotiations at the WTO to a successful conclusion
- Selected Commonwealth donor countries establishing a Commonwealth Trade Facilitation Trust Fund
- Re-establishing the annual meeting of a Ministerial Group specifically on small states
- Providing extra financial support to improve training requirements for small states in meeting international regulatory requirements

#### Young people, sport and development

- Giving political and practical support to 'sport for development' initiatives aimed at promoting the development of young people

- Member governments demonstrating their active commitment to young people through funding for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)
- Supporting youth representatives to improve their local communities through working relationships with local governance structures
- Scaling up significantly the CYP's 'Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living' programme, which encourages peer-to-peer education on HIV/AIDS
- All Commonwealth member governments establishing national mechanisms to enable the views of young people to be taken into account in national policy development
- Encouraging members of the Commonwealth Youth Caucus in their efforts to develop a constitution
- All member countries and all Commonwealth organisations removing any barrier to the employment of young people who qualify for positions
- All member countries and all Commonwealth organisations exploring the feasibility of introducing an internship programme
- Commonwealth organisations involving young people as partners
- Encouraging all possible measures for the entrepreneurial and economic empowerment of youth

#### Women

- Advancing the Commonwealth's work for the economic and social empowerment of women through a number of practical measures

#### Tackling HIV/AIDS

- The Secretary-General working with UN bodies to develop joint programmes with private sector organisations
- Heads of Government taking steps to encourage the repeal of laws that may impede an effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic

#### Coping with climate change

- Exploring the potential for partnerships between the Commonwealth, the World Bank, and others to provide specific programmes of support to

vulnerable economies

- Establishing a working relationship with organisations concerned with disaster management throughout the Commonwealth, to maintain a roster of professionals for advice

#### Institutions fit for purpose

- Significant rationalisation of the Commonwealth Secretariat's work plan by the end of 2012
- A budget increase to enable the Secretariat to attract the best international talent
- Maximising time for dialogue and practical outcomes on the priority issues of the day at the CHOGM retreat, and issuing a Chairman's statement reflecting actual discussions and decisions
- A considered plan for CHOGMs which informs the media regularly of the progress of discussions and provides full disclosure to the outcomes
- Giving the Commonwealth Foundation an explicit mandate to mobilise Commonwealth civil society around global issues
- Expanding opportunities for citizens, such as scholarships and professional exchanges, and expanding the 'footprint' of the Commonwealth by creating incentives for Commonwealth organisations to relocate out of the UK. This could include further support for the CSFP, including through the creation of a dedicated post at the Secretariat
- Strengthening the development of strategic relationships between the Secretariat and the UN system and others, including private sector and philanthropic organisations
- Ensuring that the Secretary-General and all Commonwealth governments play their part in enhancing the public profile of the association

The EPG will present their recommendations to Commonwealth leaders in October. While CHOGM will make the final decision on the future strategic direction of the Commonwealth, it is clear that the EPG's report will have a powerful impact. As its Chairperson, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, has said, 'Our goal is to re-invigorate the Commonwealth so that we can improve the lives of Commonwealth people'.

# OUR ALUMNI

## Alumni news

### COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS SHARE KNOWLEDGE AT DENTISTRY CONFERENCE

Professor Neeraj Gu gnani (2008 Commonwealth Scholar from India, Dental Sciences, University of Manchester) and Dr Rishi Bali (2009 Commonwealth Scholar from India, Infection Control, Imperial College London) were both invited



**Neeraj Gu gnani**, former Commonwealth Scholar, at the 64th Indian Dental Conference

to be guest speakers at the prestigious Indian Dental Conference, held in Jaipur, India, in February 2011.

Neeraj and Rishi share the same home employer: DAV Dental College and Hospital. During their scholarships, Neeraj worked in the field of early caries diagnosis, while Rishi researched infection control and occupational safety in dentistry.

Neeraj spoke at the conference about 'Caries diagnosis: international trends and the Indian scenario'. He discussed the need for a change in the mindset of dentists in developing countries to diagnose the disease at an early stage. He shared the knowledge gained during his scholarship about modern technological tools, and suggested that, with modern techniques, it is possible to achieve the World Health Organization's (WHO) goal of caries-free generations in the future.

Rishi's presentation, on 'Risk of blood borne viruses in Dentistry', discussed the risk of occupational exposure to blood-borne viruses such as HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. He emphasised that, although occupational exposure can be minimised by strict adherence to universal precautions, it cannot be completely eliminated, so it is imperative that dentists remain adequately immunised and take proper precautions. He appealed to the Indian authorities to set a regulation, similar to that in the UK, for mandatory immunisation of all dental health care workers against hepatitis B. Rishi has now had such a resolution passed at the Haryana State Health University, which has 10 affiliated dental institutions

and approximately 7,000 health care workers and students. He is actively working towards similar adoption by medical and dental councils in India.

Both the conference presentations were appreciated by all those attending, and showed the ongoing impact that former Commonwealth Scholars have in their home countries following their awards.

### INNOVATION IN ULTRASOUND AND ANAESTHESIA



**Atul Gaur**, former Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India

Dr Atul Gaur (1995 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Glenfield Hospital (Leicester)) is a Consultant Anaesthetist at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, and a Founder Director of the Society for Ultrasound in Anaesthesia.

The Society is a not-for-profit organisation registered in England and Wales, and is about to launch postgraduate certificate courses in the use of ultrasound and critical care via distributed learning.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH WORK RECOGNISED



**Mian Atiq ur Rehman** (left), former Commonwealth Professional Fellow, receiving a donation from Ameer Haider Khan Hoti, Chief Minister of the Khyber Pukhtoon Khawa province, Pakistan

Mian Atiq ur Rehman (2007 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Pakistan, Public Health, Black Health Agency) has recently been honoured by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pukhtoon Khawa province in Pakistan for his valuable contribution to

the field of public health and his continuous support for those affected by the 2010 floods in the region.

Mian is the founder and Chief Executive of Welfare Hand Organisation, Peshawar, which has been assisting patients affected by blood disorders, such as thalassemia, haemophilia, HIV/AIDS, and hepatitis, since 1994.

## Awards and prizes

Professor Upali Amarasinghe (1999 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Sri Lanka, Fisheries Biology, Imperial College London) has been awarded a Doctorate of Science by Bangor University in the UK, for his lifelong contribution to fisheries biology and the development of inland fisheries in Sri Lanka. Upali is a Professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of Kelaniya.

Dr Amit Dey (1995 Commonwealth Scholar from India, PhD History, Royal Holloway, University of London) was selected to participate in the US State Department's 'Study of the US Institute on Religious Pluralism' in 2010. Through the programme, which has the long-term aim of promoting peace through encouraging mutual understanding, academics from 17 countries learnt how various religious groups in the USA are trying to promote better understanding between different communities. Amit is currently a Reader in and Head of the Department of History at the University of Calcutta, India.

Md Shahidul Islam (2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh, MSc Accounting and Finance, University of Manchester) has received a prize for the best performance on his MSc course over the academic year. Shahidul has now returned to Bangladesh and his post as a Lecturer in Accounting at the University of Dhaka.

Dr Ida Paul (2003 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from South Africa, PhD Environmental Management, University of Pretoria and Durham University) has been named as a 2011 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum Award recipient, in recognition of her outreach work and her efforts in combating wheat rust in South Africa. The award provides professional development opportunities for early career female researchers. As a result, Ida, a plant pathologist at the Agricultural Research Council, has been invited to encourage female students to pursue a career in agriculture at the University of Stellenbosch.



Professor Mahinda Wijeratne (1994 Commonwealth Fellow from Sri Lanka, Agricultural Extension, University of Reading) has won the CVCD Excellence Award 2010 for Most Outstanding Researcher in the field of social sciences. The award was presented by the President of Sri Lanka to Mahinda for his research contribution to agricultural economics, technology transfer, community development, and environmental economics. In addition, Mahinda, a Senior Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Ruhuna, has made a valuable effort to improve the economic and social welfare of rural communities, through a number of extension programmes.

## Publications

Ashitava Halder (2004 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Bangladesh, MSc Aquatic Resource Development, University of Stirling) has published a book based on his MSc thesis, *Co-management of Wetlands May Contribute to the Livelihood of People* (VDM Verlag Dr Müller, 2010).



**Nicholas Ozor**, former Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria

Dr Nicholas Ozor (2005 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Agricultural Extension, University of Nigeria and University of Reading) co-authored the chapter on sub-Saharan Africa in the *UNESCO Science Report 2010*, and also co-authored a chapter in a US award-winning book, titled *Nanotechnology and Microelectronics: Global Diffusion, Economics and Policy* (IGI Global Publishing, 2010).

## Recent appointments

Dr Emmanuel Akpabio (2004 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Environmental and Resource Management, University of Uyo and Lancaster University) has been appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Political and Cultural Change at the Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany. Previously, Emmanuel was a Lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Uyo.

Philemon Chebon (2006 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Kenya, Education, Book Aid International) has been appointed Chair of the Board of Governors of the Kenya Technical Teachers Training College for a three-year term. The college was established with the aim of training technically-skilled personnel to teach in technical institutions.

Dr Nneoyi Egbe (2005 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Medical Physics, University of Aberdeen) has been appointed Head of the Department of Radiography at the University of Calabar, Nigeria.

Innocent Dilbar Feroze (2006 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Pakistan, Public Health, Commonwealth Medical Trust) has been appointed Director-Coordinator of the Bureau of Emigration at the Ministry of Labour and Manpower, Government of Pakistan.

Professor Manjappa D Hosamane (1997 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Econometrics, University of Essex) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Vijayanagar Sri Krishnadevaraya University, India.

Jessica Murray (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa, DPhil Gender Studies, University of York) has been appointed Senior



**Jessica Murray**, former Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa

Lecturer in English Studies at the University of South Africa. Jessica is also an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg.

Professor Olu Obafemi (1989 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria, African Drama, University of Leeds) has been appointed Director of Research at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, a key policy think tank in Nigeria. Olu is currently a Professor of English at the University of Ilorin.



**Olu Obafemi**, former Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria

Geeta Oberoi (2008 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from India, PhD Law, University of Delhi and University of Warwick) has been appointed Additional Director of the Maharashtra Judicial Academy, India.

Jonathan Pickering (2005 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, MSc Development Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science) is undertaking a PhD in climate and development ethics at the Australian National University, on leave from his post as Project Manager at AusAID.

Matilda Phiri (2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Zambia, MSc Entomology, Imperial College London) has been appointed Lecturer in Entomology at the University of Zambia.

Dr Dinesh C Rai (2009 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Dairy Food Technology, University of Reading) has been appointed Professor of Dairy Technology in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, India. Dinesh was formerly a Reader at the same university.



**Dinesh Rai**, former Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India

All career information sent in by alumni will be recorded on our database and updated in the CSC online Directory annually – email us at [alumni@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:alumni@cscuk.org.uk)

# ALUMNI PROFILE

*Three of our Australian alumni share their achievements, and how their Commonwealth Scholarships helped them in their successful careers.*

**Professor Alexandra Walsham** (1990 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD History, University of Cambridge) recently became the first woman to hold the Chair of Modern History at the University of Cambridge.



**Alexandra Walsham,**  
*former Commonwealth Scholar and Chair of Modern History at the University of Cambridge*

Alexandra's research on the religious and cultural history of early modern Britain brought her to the UK for her PhD in 1990 – before the internet made early modern texts readily available internationally. Her Commonwealth Scholarship transformed her life, helping establish her later career, providing access to manuscripts, and forging important relationships with fellow students and lecturers.

Following a lectureship at the University of Exeter in 1996, Alexandra was promoted to Chair of History and elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2009, returning to Cambridge in 2010. She says 'Teaching for me is a vital part of my vocation and I only hope I can pass on some of the passion that others conveyed to me at the same critical juncture in my own intellectual journey'.

While Alexandra believes that her PhD studies were her biggest challenge, her recent book, *The Reformation of the Landscape: Religion, Identity and Memory in Early Modern Britain* (Oxford University Press, 2011) was also a demanding project. Her research for the book ranged from the medieval period to the 18th and 19th centuries. 'Its theme is large and expansive. It has necessitated an exploration of many scattered and difficult documents and texts, and required me to read them creatively and often against the grain.'

As an academic who understands the importance of the interrelationship between different periods, Alexandra values the potential of scholarships to create new, tangible academic linkages. 'The opportunity to transform those virtual exchanges into face-to-face encounters through international scholarship schemes cannot be underestimated. Students who are fortunate enough to be the recipients of these awards benefit immeasurably from them and contribute in their own individual ways to those cultures in return.'

**Josh Frydenberg** (1996 Commonwealth Scholar, MPhil International Relations, University of Oxford) was elected as Liberal MP for Kooyong, Australia, in 2010.



**Josh Frydenberg,** *former Commonwealth Scholar and Member of the Australian Parliament*

Josh studied Law and Economics at Monash University, before his Commonwealth Scholarship enabled him to study at the University of Oxford. The scholarship provided me with the intellectual rigour of the MPhil and the experience of studying overseas and the international perspective gained as a result.'

After his studies, Josh practiced as a barrister, and subsequently became Senior Adviser to the Australian Foreign Minister and then the Prime Minister, John Howard. 'These were exceptionally challenging roles but also hugely rewarding. My experience provided a window into the role of an MP and the difference they can make to our community.' Afterwards, Josh was appointed Director of Global Banking at Deutsche Bank, and completed a Master of Public Administration degree at Harvard University, USA.

Josh's family history has given him an insight into the migrant experience in Australia; his grandparents came to Australia in the 1930s, but his great-grandparents perished in the Holocaust. In

his constituency, more than one in five people speak a language other than English at home. Josh believes passionately in equality of opportunity for all Australians, and in the importance of building strong, cohesive communities to shape society.

'I have a deep interest in public policy – economic and foreign policy in particular – and believe Australia faces many significant challenges going forward. I want to play my part in helping my country and my local community respond to these challenges.'

**Justice Anthe Philippides** (1984 Commonwealth Scholar, LLM, University of Cambridge) was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2000. She has previously served as President of the Land Appeal Court of Queensland, and as a Judge and President of the Queensland Mental Health Court.

Anthe recalls that her Commonwealth Scholarship gave her a unique opportunity to study under the guidance of celebrated legal academics, such as Professor David Williams, who went on to become the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

Returning to Australia after her studies, Anthe practiced as a barrister in Queensland, where she specialised in maritime law, an area in which she first became interested at Cambridge. She went on to become President of the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand, and was appointed to an extensive range of state and national maritime legal and industry bodies, including the Port of Brisbane Corporation and the Council of the National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

Anthe's time at Cambridge was a formative experience in her journey from student to judge, and she acknowledges the important role played by the CSC 'in encouraging Commonwealth students to undertake postgraduate study in England and in fostering enduring international ties'.



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP, NEW MEDIA AND BUSINESS

*An insight into the work of **Asheesh Advani** (1994 Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil Management Studies, University of Oxford), who founded his own peer-to-peer lending company, pioneering a new form of financial service in the US market.*

Asheesh Advani grew up accustomed to new challenges. Born in Mumbai, India, where his family had emigrated to from the province of Sindh after the formation of Pakistan and India in 1947, Asheesh and his family moved to Toronto, Canada, when he was six years old. He has happy childhood memories, and describes his upbringing as 'a typical immigrant experience'. His father had transferred jobs, and attended night school as well. The family moved several times, eventually from an apartment to a bigger house. Asheesh recalls that the message he received was clear: 'hard work pays off'.

Asheesh attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in the US, graduating with a degree in Economics and Finance. He combined his university studies with a diverse range of working opportunities – at a Canadian investment bank, at a fashion magazine in New York, at a policy think tank in Washington, DC, and spending a semester in India with a fellow student working on a feasibility study for a US investment bank on an Indian joint venture.

Asheesh's interest was in the commercialisation of public sector organisations, and he saw the UK as a leader in this field. He found that his Commonwealth Scholarship broadened his academic interests. Asheesh chose to concentrate his thesis on privatisation, specifically in the airport industry, as it was among the first type of public monopoly to undergo commercialisation, foreshadowing what would happen to schools, hospitals, and other public services.

Following his DPhil, Asheesh worked at the World Bank, and at a management consultancy firm. He also followed up his interest in social lending, and spent six months exploring its commercialisation potential in the US. He concluded that it was a large market with little competition and high gross margin potential and benefited from emerging consumer web trends such as peer-to-peer connectivity and social networks. He developed a business plan for an

online peer-to-peer loan administration company offering information and services (such as loan documentation, electronic billing, payment processing, tax and legal filings) for private transactions. He named the company CircleLending, because it would target friends, family members and business associates within a borrower's social circle.

In July 2001, Asheesh launched his new company with one employee, some shared office space in Boston, \$30,000 in seed capital from his own family and friends, and \$350,000 from early investors. In 2002, CircleLending developed and refined prototype products and pricing schedules, conducted mostly word-of-mouth marketing, and generated approximately \$2 million in loan volume.

## Asheesh found that his Commonwealth Scholarship broadened his academic interests.

But the firm was looking to grow and needed funds for marketing and distribution, and Asheesh decided to initiate a round of angel funding and eventually raised venture capital financing.

CircleLending was attracting great interest, revamping product lines and implementing a comprehensive marketing plan including search engines, partnerships with financial intermediaries, publications, distribution partnerships, and public relations campaigns. The company's success continued. Business grew consistently by 25 per cent per quarter from 2003 to 2007, generating over \$200 million in loans. The social lending category it had pioneered had grown to over 20 companies in over 10 countries, and CircleLending accounted for over half of global market volume. The impact of

Asheesh's venture was recognised by the media, and he was profiled as an innovator, with coverage in *Business Week* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Greater investment would enable the company's continued growth, and CircleLending was acquired by the Virgin Group in 2007, with the proviso that Asheesh stay on as CEO of the newly-formed Virgin Money USA. Asheesh was pleased with the transaction, but understood the challenge that faced him. 'Virgin Money already existed in three other countries – Britain, South Africa, and Australia. We were now part of a global enterprise and our little company had the rights to use the brand for a broad range of financial services in the United States. We knew then that Virgin would be expanding and adding product categories. It was an awesome responsibility. We felt like stewards of the brand, rather than founders.'

Despite an economic downturn in 2008, the company's revenues increased substantially, products were rebranded, and new product lines introduced via the acquisition of the assets of a mortgage lending company. However, in mid-2009, a number of factors converged to spur Asheesh's decision to leave Virgin. A restructuring of the Virgin Group was taking place with changes in leadership and strategic direction.

The parting was amicable, and leaving Virgin Money also offered Asheesh the chance to tackle new challenges, an opportunity he relished. Asheesh took on a role as a senior executive at Thomson Reuters, to help the company expand into new markets in financial services and social media. In 2010, Asheesh and his family spent several months in Bangalore, where he was able to introduce his six-year-old twin sons to Indian culture. He jokes that 'the irony of bringing my sons to India at the same age that I left India has not escaped me'. Now back home in Boston, Asheesh serves as an advisor and supporter for various entrepreneurial companies, universities, and public institutions.

# OUR IMPACT

*Rachel Day previews two upcoming reports, the first examining the contribution of Commonwealth Scholarships to the higher education sector's influence on development, and the second looking at the impact of our alumni on the support of democratic principles and practices in the Commonwealth.*

*Tertiary education institutions have a critical role in supporting knowledge-driven economic growth strategies and the construction of democratic, socially cohesive societies – Constructing Knowledge Societies: New Challenges for Tertiary Education (World Bank, 2002)*

The role of higher education institutions and their staff in contributing to socioeconomic development has received greater attention in recent years – a shift which recognises the importance of higher education in a range of areas vital for development, from research and development and innovation to the provision of high-quality training for professionals. The CSC has long been aware of this potential and, in its fifth evaluation report, it seeks to identify the impact of its awards and its alumni on both the HE sector and beyond.

This report forms part of the third phase of our evaluation programme; building on the 2008 alumni survey, it looks at those who have held Commonwealth Scholarships for academic staff or Academic Fellowships and the two-thirds of alumni survey respondents who reported working in education. The report then moves on to focus on the impact at an institutional level, interviewing alumni based at three pivotal Commonwealth institutions: Makerere University in Uganda, the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, and the University of the West Indies in the Caribbean.

To some extent, the report reiterates previous evaluation findings – for example, that our scholarships and fellowships enable individuals to acquire skills and knowledge. Equally important is the ability to pass on this expertise: 96 per cent of alumni survey respondents working in HE reported using the skills gained on award in their workplaces.

In addition, the report found that concerns over widespread brain drain from academia in developing Commonwealth countries are not justified in this instance, with 95 per cent of respondents working in HE returning to their home regions – 94 per cent to their home countries. Furthermore, the benefits arguably extend to institutions, as seen in academic staff members' reported career advancements and their ability to introduce new practices and innovations in their workplace.

Strengthening national higher education sectors also has a knock-on effect on development, and respondents reported a variety of activities in this vein, from the introduction of new curricula and courses at their institutions to the promotion of gender equality or poverty reduction. Overall, 92 per cent of those respondents working in HE reported having an impact in at least one of 12 key development priority areas, including environmental protection, poverty reduction, governance, and agriculture, to name just four.

Key findings of the report include:

- The CSC is well placed to have an impact on higher education and to work in partnership with overseas higher education institutions. Alongside other programmes, it has offered over 4,100 specifically targeted scholarships and fellowships to academic staff and overseas PhD students nominated by over 340 institutions, mostly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Awards enable individuals to acquire skills and knowledge and to pass them on. 99 per cent of alumni survey respondents working in HE reported gaining knowledge in their area of expertise, and 96 per cent reported using the skills and knowledge gained on award in their workplaces.
- Awards contribute to the career development of HE professionals. 87 per cent of respondents working in HE who had completed their studies at least 12 months before the survey reported that their award had helped them make advancements in their careers.
- International scholarships and fellowships do not necessarily lead to brain drain from developing countries. 94 per cent of respondents from developing countries working in HE reported working or living in their home countries, rising to 95 per cent if those in their home regions are included.
- Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships are linked to the introduction of new practices

**Dr Liang Lin Seow** (third from right, with undergraduate dental students) held a Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship at the University of Manchester, enabling her to undertake research in the UK for 12 months as part of her University of Malaya PhD in Dental Sciences. In 2008, she joined the International Medical University in Malaysia as an Associate Professor, and has been involved in the establishment of new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in dental sciences.

'Armed with the expertise, knowledge and experience gained through my scholarship, I have conducted several research programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels since completing my PhD. The students have won several awards at both national and international levels. I joined the International Medical University just as it started to offer a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree course. As part of the pioneer batch of academics, I have been tasked with drafting and implementing a unique dental degree programme, whereby the students will be transferred to various partner dental schools to complete the degree. The university has the vision of setting up a health care centre including a comprehensive dental care centre, in which I am involved. At present, this type of dental care centre is lacking in Malaysia.'





## CSC DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES

- Health
- Agricultural/Rural Productivity
- Quantity and Quality of Education
- Governance
- International Relations
- Poverty Reduction
- Social Inequalities and Human Rights
- Physical Infrastructure
- Environment Protection
- Conflict Resolution/Humanitarian Assistance
- Scientific and Research Applications
- Job Creation

and innovations in Commonwealth higher education institutions. 90 per cent of respondents working in HE reported that they had been able to introduce new practices and innovations in their workplaces as a result of their awards.

The Commonwealth places great emphasis on democracy, democratic institutions, and good governance, as does the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), our principal funding body, which quotes strong governance, conflict prevention, and social equality in the field of gender as being key components of development. As such, we have sought to identify the contribution of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to issues surrounding democratic principles and good governance in our sixth report.

In this report, we explore the activity and impact reported by alumni in four key development priority areas. In fact, several, if not all, of the other development priority areas could also have been

included, as they all have a role to play in good governance. Bearing this in mind, as well as the challenge of identifying impact when outcomes and benefits are often intangible, our findings were nevertheless positive.

As with other reports published as part of the third phase of our evaluation programme, the context of CSC support in this area is explained first, and followed by an examination of responses from alumni who report an impact in this field. Initial findings from analysis of the alumni survey responses are positive, with the majority reporting having gained skills and attributing their ability to introduce new practices at work to their awards.

The report then concentrates on reported impact in the four key areas. Overall, 1,035 of the 2,226 respondents to the alumni survey reported an impact in at least one of these areas, and many reported impact in more than one. In particular:

- 62 per cent (642) of the 1,035 respondents reported an impact in the field of governance
- 52 per cent (536) reported an impact in the field of international relations
- 58 per cent (596) reported an impact in the field of social inequalities and human rights
- 41 per cent (422) reported an impact in the field of conflict resolution and humanitarian assistance

Individual case studies, based on additional information provided by various respondents, are also included, as are detailed interviews with four alumni from across the Commonwealth. This further investigation strengthens earlier findings and shows that scholarships and fellowships, through the work and dedication of the individuals who hold them, can have a pivotal influence on development and on

good governance and stability, both intricately connected with the sustainability of democratic principles.

Both reports – *Assessing the impact on higher education and development* and *Assessing the impact on building and sustaining Commonwealth principles on democracy* – are due to be published in August 2011.

**Professor Mary Jane Mossman** was a 1970 Commonwealth Scholar, and completed her LLM at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is currently a Professor of Law at the Osgoode Hall Law School of York University in Canada.

'I am regularly involved pro bono with the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund in Canada regarding women's equality and Charter rights, as well as with the Canadian Bar Association regarding access to justice and legal aid services in Canada. I am also the Chair of the Administrative Committee of the Canadian Automobile Workers (CAW) Legal Services Plan, which provides free legal services to employees of General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler. Moreover, I am a member of the Friends of Community Legal Clinics in Ontario, a community-based system of legal aid clinics providing law services.'

## CSC EVALUATION AND MONITORING PROGRAMME

The CSC has undertaken monitoring work through annual reports from award holders and supervisors, anonymous questionnaires, and analyses of completion rates for many years. In addition to this, in 2008 we launched an in-depth three-phase evaluation programme, which aims to identify and quantify the impact of our awards on individual scholars, on institutions, and on a wider scale on communities and societies. To date, work has included tracing alumni and updating records, analysis of key issues such as gender balance, a large-scale alumni survey, and written reports detailing the impact of alumni in specific regions and in specific sectors. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-evaluation> or contact [evaluation@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:evaluation@cscuk.org.uk)

**Hilary Limo** was awarded a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship in Public Health and Environment at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (North East) in 2007. He works as a Public Health Officer at the Kenyan Ministry of Health, where he coordinates a weekly regional surveillance of communicable diseases. His skills were called upon two weeks after his return to Kenya, during the post-election violence at the end of 2007.

'[The] Ministry of Health constituted a team to coordinate health and nutrition issues in internally displaced people (IDP) camps and I was nominated to be part of the team. With fresh ideas from the Tyne and Wear Emergency Planning Unit, I led the team in establishing various sub-committees to deal with shelter, sanitation and hygiene, safe water, and psychosocial support. The IDPs are still in the camps, but at least they are able to access their basic rights while we plan to reconcile the communities.'

# NETWORKS AND EVENTS

## NEW ECONOMICS AND FINANCE PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

The CSC is launching a new Professional Network in Economics and Finance in July 2011. Registration for the network is now open on LinkedIn – award holders and alumni can join by visiting the Commonwealth Scholarships group (see box below).

Phil Lewis has been appointed as coordinator of the new Economics and Finance Professional Network. He has a BSc in Economics and an MA in International Political Economy, and recently became Project Manager of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), after working at DFID for two years. During his time at DFID, his role included providing analysis and research into the market failures and barriers that prevent private sector investment in low carbon infrastructure investments, as well as managing the UK's contribution to a \$6.2bn climate change initiative.

Phil says 'I'm excited about the new professional network that the CSC is setting up, as I believe that economics and finance issues have relevance far beyond the subject itself, with implications for all of the subjects that the other professional networks cover.

### CSC PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

The CSC has nine Professional Networks, open to both current Scholars and Fellows and alumni, in a range of professional subject areas:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Economics and Finance - **NEW**
- Education
- Environment
- Faiths and Civil Society
- Gender
- Governance
- Legal
- Public Health
- Science and Technology

We have been working to improve the interactivity of our Professional Networks, and the Agriculture and Rural Development, Governance, and Legal Networks – as well as the new network in

'My hope is that the network will highlight some of the recent news and events spanning economics and finance, as well as showcasing some of the latest thinking and stimulating (friendly!) debate. I welcome your views on the network's development, so please visit LinkedIn and post your comments!'

The new network will cater for our alumni with successful business or financial careers, as well as others working in related fields. Milton Lawrence (1994 Commonwealth Scholar from Dominica, MBA, Cranfield University) is now Chairman of the Caribbean Financial Services Corporation, and is looking forward to the new network: 'My Commonwealth Scholarship transformed my professional life by allowing me to obtain a valuable set of skills that I am now able to utilise in support of a number of Caribbean banks, particularly during this global financial crisis'.

Lawrence Musonda (1996 Commonwealth Scholar from Zambia, PhD Teacher Education, University of

Economics and Finance – have groups on LinkedIn, enabling both network members and the CSC to post discussion and news topics, as well as share professional experiences and best practice.

Alumni who wish to join these Networks on LinkedIn will need to have a profile on the site, and then join the Commonwealth Scholarships parent group at <http://linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships>. You can then sign up to any of the four Professional Network groups, as these are subgroups.

The Commonwealth Scholarships group and Professional Network groups are closed groups, and only current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are allowed to join. If you have any queries, please email [alumni@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:alumni@cscuk.org.uk)



*Daniela De Bono, 2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Malta, giving a presentation at the **Commonwealth, Human Rights and Democracy** conference*

East Anglia) is another alumnus who has followed a career in this field. 'The distinct advantage of a Commonwealth Scholarship is that it places you in top learning institutions. After my PhD, I advanced rapidly from an ordinary Inspector of Schools to Director of Planning, then Permanent Secretary and, after the Civil Service, I headed one of the best management training institutes in my country. I am now an independent consultant. The CSC has made a huge contribution to human resource development in the developing world.'

## COMMONWEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

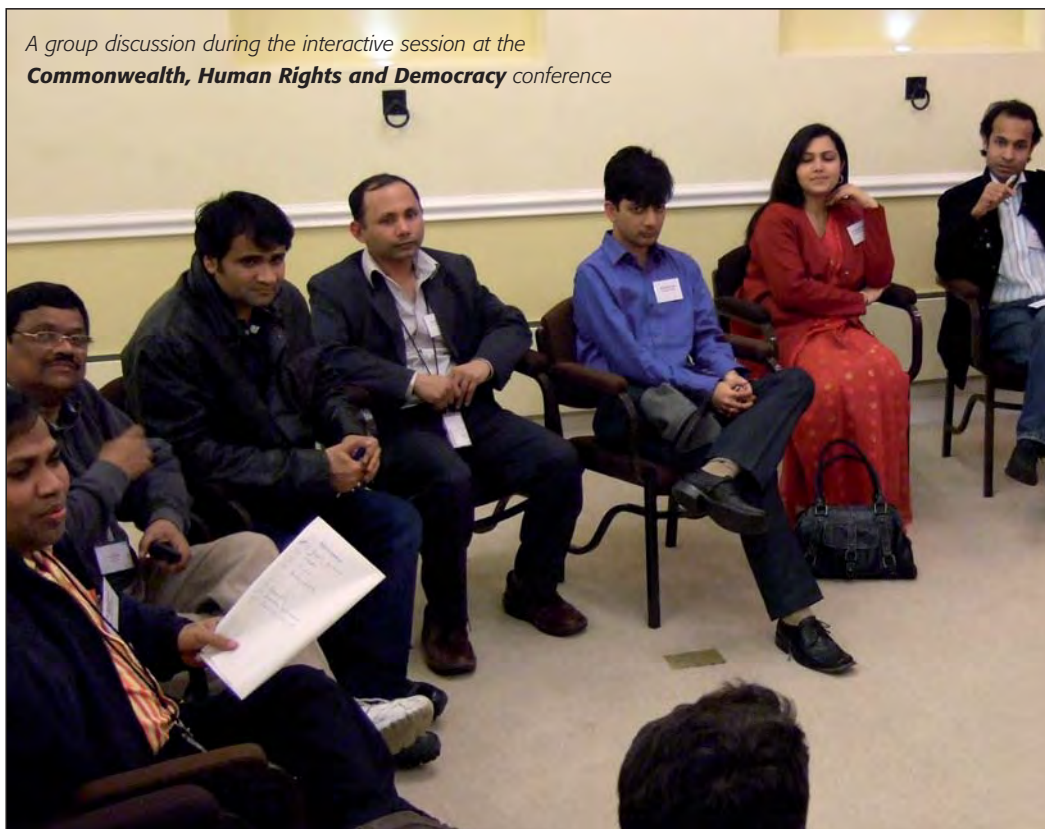
The 'Commonwealth, Human Rights and Democracy' conference was held on 11-13 March 2011 at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor. It featured a packed agenda, with over 60 delegates attending and 11 speakers.

The opening keynote speech was given by Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the CSC, and centred on the notion and existence of human rights. The speech set the tone for a vibrant and interactive weekend, during which six current Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows gave presentations on topics covering human rights in relation to migration and community empowerment, building democracies in developing and struggling economies, and ideas of governance at both corporate and micro levels.

In addition, Dr Leo Zeilig, Assistant Director of the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit (CPSU) highlighted issues surrounding democracy transition in sub-Saharan Africa, and Onyekachi Wambu, from the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), talked about democracy in the Nigerian context. All



A group discussion during the interactive session at the **Commonwealth, Human Rights and Democracy** conference



talks were well received and followed by lively question and answer sessions.

The interactive session in the evening of the second day was a great success. Scholars and Fellows divided up by region into three groups, and discussed and voted on the values they would use to rebuild the Commonwealth, should they ever have to. It was an exercise designed to expose the intricacies, as well as the highs and lows, of consensus building and democracy.

Perhaps the highlight for delegates came on the Sunday morning as, having passed through security checks and armed with chapel passes, they walked through the rain to the Royal Chapel at Windsor Castle. Attendees participated in a Lent service in the presence of HM The Queen, and a few were even introduced to Her Majesty, who then stopped briefly to chat with them.

The weekend was well received and enjoyed by all those present. A full report of the conference is available on our website at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-events>

### COMMONWEALTH DAY OBSERVANCE

A group of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows was invited to attend the Commonwealth Day Observance on 14 March 2010 at Westminster Abbey, in the presence of HM The Queen. Speakers at the service, which highlighted this

year's theme of 'Women as agents of change', included Annie Lennox, Kamalesh Sharma (Secretary-General of the Commonwealth), The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar MP (Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago), and Carol Ann Duffy CBE (Poet Laureate of the UK).

Her Majesty spoke of the current achievements – and the future potential – of women across the Commonwealth as agents of change. She also encouraged those present to 'give thought to the practical ways in which we, as individuals or as groups, can provide support to girls and women – so that everyone can have a chance of a fuller and more rewarding life, wherever they happen to be born'.

## Alumni events

The CSC has alumni chapters in Australia, Canada, Kenya, Mauritius, and Trinidad and Tobago. Contact information for the chapters can be found on our website at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-alumni>

### AUSTRALIA CHAPTER

Events are being planned in September and October 2011, when members of the CSC will be holding events in various Australian cities. We will contact Australian alumni nearer to the time; if you

have any queries in the meantime, email [alumni@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:alumni@cscuk.org.uk)

### KENYA CHAPTER

The launch of the Kenya chapter took place on 21 February 2011 in Nairobi, with more than 50 alumni and current Distance Learning Scholars attending. Dr Maurice Okoth (2009 Commonwealth Academic Fellow, Physical Chemistry, University of Strathclyde), a Senior Lecturer at Moi University, was elected as Chapter Coordinator – he first proposed the idea of establishing a chapter in October 2010.

The meeting discussed the chapter formation and key issues, including developing the chapter logo and constitution; hosting conferences and workshops; participating in the activities of affiliate organisations such as the British Council, DFID and the British High Commission; how members can be goodwill ambassadors or advocates for the CSC; and member recruitment and networking.

Guests representing organisations that work with the CSC, such as the British Council and the Royal Commonwealth Society, also attended. In his keynote address, as chief guest of the inaugural meeting, Dr John Kirkland (Executive Secretary of the CSC) welcomed the formation of the chapter, and urged the new officials to help it influence national policy formulation and decision-making.

All Kenyan former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are invited to join the new chapter – details are available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-alumni>

### MAURITIUS CHAPTER

The current President of the chapter is Souda Rosunee (1992 Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Textile Dyeing and Finishing, University of Leeds, 1999 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Textile Technology, University of Manchester), and the Vice President is Roshan Ramessar (1985 Commonwealth Scholar, BSc Marine Chemistry, Bangor University). AGMs are held in April, and dinners are held every December. The chapter has held joint meetings with Chevening Scholars also. The chapter plans to initiate a project on climate change, possibly in conjunction with a school.

### REGIONAL NETWORK EVENTS

The **South East Regional Network** organised a meet and greet in March 2011. The event was attended by Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC.

The **North East Regional Network** held its introductory meeting in January 2010, as well as an event in Leeds in February 2011.

Photos of all these events are available on our Flickr page at [www.flickr.com/cscuk](http://www.flickr.com/cscuk)

# CSFP NEWS

*The Association of Commonwealth Universities, which provides the secretariat for the CSC, was recently commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat to carry out some research on the CSFP and its future.*

*John Kirkland reports.*

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) has an illustrious 50-year history. The question now is: how should it seek to build on these achievements?

To help answer this question, the Commonwealth Secretariat commissioned the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to investigate what key stakeholders think about Commonwealth Scholarships, what they regard as the main strengths and weaknesses of the CSFP, and what steps can be taken to make its operation even more relevant to modern society.

Four stakeholder groups were identified: governments (without whose involvement and financial support, there would be no Plan), current and former Scholars and Fellows (the best demonstration of the value and impact of the scheme), and applicants (who are contactable thanks to new electronic application methods, even though most of them will be unsuccessful and have no further contact with the CSFP). The ACU surveyed all four of these groups – almost 2,000 individuals took part.

The findings were, in general, uniformly positive across all groups. When asked to what extent certain words or phrases are associated with the CSFP, 82 per cent strongly agreed that the Plan is ‘academic’, 76 per cent ‘prestigious’, 69 per cent ‘distinctive’, and 63 per cent ‘relevant to the needs of their home country’. 95 per cent of respondents also agreed that the scholarships and fellowships are an effective tool for international development.

While such support is highly encouraging, other findings suggest that, within this overwhelmingly positive picture, some areas may merit further attention.

When asked whether the CSFP is ‘accessible’, only 24 per cent strongly agreed, and only 67 per cent agreed to any extent. Agreement with the statement that ‘the selection criteria for Commonwealth Scholarships are clear’ was at 50 per cent, whilst 40 per cent agreed that ‘the application procedures for Commonwealth Scholarships are well known’. In each case, the proportion of those agreeing did remain higher

## CSFP ENDOWMENT FUND: DONOR UPDATE

We would like to thank all those who have donated to the fund. Recent donors are listed below – a full list is available at [www.csfp-online.org/donors\\_list.html](http://www.csfp-online.org/donors_list.html)

Sheung Wai Tam	Simon Kam Kee Wong
Ajit Singh	Upali S Kuruppu
Maren Daniel Mallo	Stephen Heung Sang
Gary C Lee	Wong
J Basson	L George
Oliver Okey Oji Enuoh	Laxmikant Joshi

than those disagreeing – and it should also be noted that such a highly competitive and selective scheme may inevitably not always be seen as accessible.

There were also divided views on future policy. When asked whether more emphasis should be placed on mid-career support, even if this means fewer conventional scholarships are made available, 42 per cent agreed. Opinion was again divided on the issues of whether more attention should be given to new learning methods, such as distance learning (28 per cent agreed), and whether awards should be more concentrated on specific subject areas (34 per cent agreed). 32 per cent agreed that more support should be given to Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows after their awards, even if this meant fewer awards being available. There was strong support for the proposition that ‘Commonwealth Scholarships should be hosted by low and middle income countries’ – a situation which the new CSFP endowment fund is starting to address.

When asked about the relationship between the CSFP and the wider Commonwealth, there were again mixed findings. 75 per cent supported the statement that the CSFP is ‘one of the best-known activities of the Commonwealth’, and 80 per cent agreed that the CSFP is ‘associated with wider Commonwealth values’. Yet 80 per cent felt that ‘candidates and alumni would contribute more to Commonwealth activities if they had a greater awareness of them’.

Overall, the analysis indicates that Commonwealth Scholarships continue to be a great success. It also suggests, however, that greater clarity is needed in the application process, more attention could be paid to accessibility, and the scheme is still not fulfilling its huge potential to garner support for the wider Commonwealth and its full range of activities and programmes.

These issues are not easily addressed by national governments alone. Selection, for example, is a two-stage process, involving both home and host countries. If criteria are unclear, this could be at either stage, or both. There also needs to be a common understanding between the national nominating agencies themselves – not an easy task, given that they have no regular forum in which to discuss their activities and objectives.

The main recommendation of the report, therefore, is that the CSFP needs to develop a more central leadership structure, without losing its flexibility or negating the ability of national governments to determine their own contributions. Proposals include a small coordination function within the Commonwealth Secretariat, a meeting of national representatives to discuss future policy, and the establishment of an international CSFP management committee to oversee activity between the triennial Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers.

The new committee would have much to discuss. Ideas emerging from the review include greater involvement of individual universities in offering Commonwealth Scholarships, a review of the ‘two-stage’ system of nominating and selecting candidates (whilst maintaining the principle of partnership between home and host countries), and the development of a greater corporate presence for the CSFP.

Those responsible for implementing the findings of the report will nonetheless inherit many more ‘pluses’ than ‘minuses’. The overwhelming conclusion of the analysis is that Commonwealth Scholarships are as well regarded and prestigious as they have likely been at any time in their history. Whatever changes take place in the coming years, this reputation must be protected.



# COUNTRY PROFILE – AUSTRALIA



*Sydney Harbour Bridge, Australia*

## NOMINATION PROCESS

Australia's participation in the CSFP is administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). DEEWR has been involved in advertising scholarships available to Australians for study in the UK, fielding enquiries, coordinating nominations from universities, and assessing applications for a recommended list of nominations sent to the CSC.

## ALUMNI

Many of our Australian alumni have made impressive contributions, both to their home country and internationally, in fields such as academia, the legal and political professions, scientific research, and in the private sector.

- **Professor Elizabeth Blackburn** (1973 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge) is a Professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology.
- **Dr Christian Behrenbruch** (1998 Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil Electrical Engineering, University of Oxford) is an expert in medical imaging, CEO of several medical start-ups, and currently Professor of Medical and Molecular Pharmacology at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA.
- **The Honourable Sir Ross Cranston** (1973 Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil Law, University of Oxford) was formerly Solicitor General for England and Wales, and is now a High Court judge.
- **Dr John Daley** (1995 Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil Law, University of Oxford) was formerly Managing Director of ANZ Bank's online stockbroker, E\*TRADE Australia. He is now CEO of the Grattan Institute, an independent domestic public policy think tank.

- **Professor Malcolm Gillies** (1978 Commonwealth Scholar, MMus, King's College London) was formerly Vice President of the Australian National University, then Vice-Chancellor of City University, UK. He is currently Vice-Chancellor of London Metropolitan University, UK.
- **Professor Germaine Greer** (1964 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD English, University of Cambridge, 1964 - 1967) is a writer, broadcaster, academic, and feminist commentator, whose first book, *The Female Eunuch*, became an international bestseller.
- **Dr Mark Levick** (1994 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Vaccine Development, University of Cambridge) is Vice President and Head, Infectious Disease Clinical Science Unit at Novartis.
- **Dame Bridget Ogilvie** (1960 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Immunology of Parasites, University of Cambridge) is a scientist, former Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner, and former Director of the Wellcome Trust.



*John Forrest, former Commonwealth Scholar and Member of the Australian Parliament*

**John Forrest** (1978 Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Fluid Mechanics, University of Aberdeen) is Member of the Australian Parliament for Mallee. He says that 'participation in the Commonwealth Scholarship programme all those years ago provided much more than just the generous financial support to pursue an important arena of

academic study. It gave the opportunity for a life experience that broadened personal development, bolstered confidence, and expanded my personal vision of a world view. It really is just a small and fragile planet after all. Without knowing it then, it provided a valuable extension to the life experience I rely on now in the task of Parliamentary representation of the needs and views of others'.

**Peter Wilkins** (1974 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Sound Vibration, University of Southampton) is Deputy Ombudsman for Western Australia. He believes that 'completing an MSc and PhD and the career openings these provided were the obvious benefits of my Commonwealth Scholarship but, thanks both to the CSC induction programme and student life at the University of Southampton, I gained innumerable insights into other cultures and ways of thinking. This has served me well throughout my career; as one small example, it has enabled me in my current role to lead improvements to the accessibility and quality of our services to overseas students which have been recognised nationally. I, along with so many other Perth residents, will be proud that our city can play host to the many groups meeting under the auspices of CHOGM'.



*Peter Wilkins, former Commonwealth Scholar and Deputy Ombudsman for Western Australia*

**Justice Murray Tobias** (1961 Commonwealth Scholar, BCL, University of Oxford) is a judge of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia. 'My two years at Exeter College, Oxford were two of the most rewarding years of my life, both from an educational as well as a social perspective. The friends I made during that time remain dear to me to this day. However, I would not have had the opportunity so afforded to me without the support of my Commonwealth Scholarship, for which I am forever grateful.'

'I am a medical doctor and Commonwealth Scholar from Perth, Western Australia. I am currently finishing a DPhil in Clinical Medicine at Wolfson College, University of Oxford. My career goal is to pursue both research and clinical work. My Commonwealth Scholarship has enabled me to gain valuable overseas research experience at a prestigious university that has unique traditions. The scholarship also contributes financially towards the high cost of medical laboratory research and attending conferences, in addition to covering overseas fees and living expenses. Furthermore, I have made important professional contacts across disciplines, including other Commonwealth Scholars.'

**Dr Suzanne English** (2008 Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford)

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC) is responsible for managing Britain's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP).

The CSC supports around 700 awards annually. Awards are funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development (for developing Commonwealth countries) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Scottish Government (for developed Commonwealth countries), in conjunction with UK universities. The CSC also nominates UK citizens for scholarships to study in other Commonwealth countries under the CSFP.

The CSC makes available seven types of award:

- Scholarships for PhD research
- Scholarships for Master's study
- Shared Scholarships with UK universities in support of Master's programmes
- Academic Fellowships for staff serving in developing country universities
- Split-site Scholarships for PhD students to spend up to one year in the UK
- Professional Fellowships for mid-career professionals in developing countries
- Distance Learning Scholarships for developing country students to study UK Master's degree courses while living in their own countries

The CSC is a non-departmental public body in its own right, and members are appointed in line with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Commission's secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities; financial management and welfare support for scholars is provided by the British Council.

The CSFP is an international programme under which member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries. The Plan was established at the first Commonwealth education conference in 1959 and is reviewed by ministers at their triennial meetings – the only scholarship scheme in the world to receive such high-level recognition.

[www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk)



[www.flickr.com/cscuk](http://www.flickr.com/cscuk)



<http://twitter.com/commschols>



<http://linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships>

*Commonwealth Scholarships News* is published for information purposes only and no liability is accepted for its contents by the CSC or by any contributor to it. While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information contained therein was correct at the time of compilation, it should not be regarded as definitive and no responsibility is accepted for the inclusion or omission of any particular item. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the CSC.

This magazine is printed using vegetable-based inks on Ecoplex paper, made from 100% post-consumer waste fibre to Blue Angel standard RAL UZ-14. It is chlorine free, uses no optical brighteners and has one of the lowest energy requirements and smallest carbon footprints of any coated paper.