



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

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Supporting
the wider
community



OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS · COUNTRY PROFILE – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO · NEWS ROUND-UP
OUR ALUMNI · TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH · NETWORKS AND EVENTS

Cover **David Musoke**

2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, distributing malaria nets in Entebbe, Uganda – read more about David on page 13

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 **Crossing the divide**

Four Commonwealth Professional Fellows striving for peace in Kashmir.

8 **The challenge for tertiary education**

A report on the 2012 Conference of Education Ministers.

10 **Our alumni**

News and career updates from former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows.

12 **Alumni profile**

Three former award holders explain their impact in the field of health care.

13 **Providing sustainable primary health care**

How a Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar is using his expertise to improve primary health care in Uganda.

14 **Our impact**

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

20 **Networks and events**

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

22 **CSFP News**

News from the wider Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

23 **Country profile – Trinidad and Tobago**

A closer look at the CSFP in operation internationally.

Education and training institutions worldwide are facing unique challenges. Changing technologies, new ways of working, and international educational alliances have provided new opportunities, transforming the way we deliver education and the way we work. Pivotal to seizing the opportunities such changes provide is the need to develop new skill sets in our staff and students to meet new demands and the changing face of global competition.

While universities and colleges work hard to prepare their students for the future workplace, it is equally important that companies and organisations have access to the best and most innovative staff development opportunities in order to ensure they grow and develop in a sustained and sustainable way.

Ministers at the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Mauritius (see page 8-9) were urged to take seriously the need for access to higher-level training and education, given the focus on early education that had been central to the Millennium Development Goals. We need to build on those solid foundations at primary and secondary level.

Improving access to education and training should be seen not as a luxury but as a necessity. Improving levels of skills, developing new ways of working, and enhancing the capacity for networking and change are essential for the development of a skilled, knowledge-rich workforce that can innovate, that is entrepreneurial, and that can engender sustainable social and economic development.

Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships are continually evolving to meet just such challenges. Awards such as Professional Fellowships and Distance Learning Scholarships enable the recipients to put their new knowledge, skills, and networks into practice immediately at their place of work. Split-site Scholars benefit from time spent studying overseas, and can share new knowledge with their home university while they complete their doctorate. In this edition of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*, we see how a group of Professional Fellows at Conciliation Resources (page 6-7) and a Distance Learning Scholar from Uganda (page 13) have been able to ensure that their new skills have a direct and lasting impact on the work they do and the people they work with.

Importantly, Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships do not simply enrich the career of the recipient, but also assist in the wider professional development of colleagues at their organisation. A whole range of people benefit from the experience of the individual award holder. Our awards are there to strengthen institutional capacity and wider social capital. They can and should be the building blocks for enhancing the knowledge, skills, and experience so vital to ensuring the sustainable development of countries across the Commonwealth.

Professor Mark Cleary

Deputy Chair, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK
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NEWS ROUND-UP



Kabelo Senyatso, winner of the 2012 Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize

2012 TAYLOR & FRANCIS COMMONWEALTH SCHOLAR BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE PRIZE

The CSC and Taylor & Francis are delighted to announce that Dr Kabelo J Senyatso (2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, PhD Conservation Ecology, University of East Anglia) is the winner of the 2012 Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize.

A panel of expert judges from different disciplines and backgrounds sat on 13 December 2012 to judge the 2012 competition, for which 76 journal articles had been submitted by Commonwealth Scholars. Concluding a long process of deliberation, including two shortlisting processes, the judges unanimously agreed on the winning article: 'Assessing range-wide conservation status change in an unmonitored widespread African bird species' by Dr Kabelo J Senyatso, published in *Diversity and Distributions – A Journal of Conservation Biogeography* (Volume 19, Issue 1, 2012).

The judges commended Kabelo's article for being clearly written, covering a wide range of countries, and using narrative and statistical data innovatively. According to the judges, the author clearly demonstrated a methodology that can be used in future research, making it a strong template. Kabelo is currently Director of BirdLife Botswana.

The CSC and Taylor & Francis would like to congratulate Kabelo and look forward to awarding him the prize of £1,500 and a year's personal subscription to a journal of choice related to the Commonwealth published by Taylor & Francis.

The response to the competition was notable and congratulations are extended to all Commonwealth Scholar entrants on the publication of their research.

COMMONWEALTH RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL 2013

The third ACU Commonwealth Residential School will be held from Thursday 8-Monday 12 August 2013 at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK. The School aims to provide a forum to bring together high-quality students from every corner of the Commonwealth to discuss interdisciplinary issues of global importance – this year, the theme is 'The world in 2113: what will it be like, how can we prepare?'. The CSC is offering a number of bursaries for Commonwealth Scholars to attend – for more information and details of how to apply, visit www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES RECOGNISE VALUE OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Commonwealth Scholarships and the work of the CSC have been praised in two recent reports by UK parliamentary committees.

In its report 'Building scientific capacity for development' (published in October 2012), the Commons Science and Technology Committee praised Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships as 'much-valued' for their role in providing effective support to early career researchers in developing countries.

'DFID's support for individuals through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has been hugely important', according to the Committee,

which also endorsed the views of its predecessor's report in 2004, expressing particular support for the split-site and distance learning scholarships offered by the CSC.

The Chair of the CSC, Professor Tim Unwin, said 'We welcome recognition by the Science and Technology Committee – as in their previous report in 2004 – of the contribution made by Commonwealth Scholarships, and the extent to which these are valued in developing countries. The CSC is already exploring ways through which we can do more to support early career academics. One example is the recent introduction of a specific stream in our Academic Fellowships scheme to provide more support for alumni'.

In addition, the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee acknowledged the key role Commonwealth Scholarships play in providing a cost-effective way of widening opportunities for young people. Their report also recommended that the number of awards should increase if the commitment of the UK to strengthening Commonwealth relations is to mean anything.

The Committee's report on 'The role and future of the Commonwealth' (published in November 2012) cited evidence from the CSC, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, amongst others, which recognised the importance of Commonwealth Scholarships both to the Commonwealth and the UK. The Committee urged the UK government to give a commitment at least to maintaining funding in real terms.

DOCLINKS – RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FOR PHD CANDIDATES AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

A new website providing resources for PhD students and early career researchers has been launched. Doctoral candidates can now access information on available funding, research support materials, and events on the newly-developed DocLinks website at doclinks.org. The website also links to a growing online networking community of PhD candidates who can communicate and share relevant information with each other, as well as approach potential partners for cooperative research. The website and the network primarily address the needs of PhD students from Africa and the European Union, reflecting the geographical priorities of the DocLinks project.

DocLinks
Connecting African & European Doctoral Candidates

OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows report on their awards and how what they have learnt will benefit their home countries.

PHD RESEARCH LEADS TO A NEW BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANY

Kantaraja Chindera is a 2009 Commonwealth Scholar from India, studying for a PhD at the Royal Veterinary College. His research has resulted in the development of a new class of polymer-based nanoparticles that can be used for drug delivery – and a spin-off company.

‘Delivering therapeutic molecules into cells with low toxicity is a major hurdle in solving many challenging diseases’, explains Kantaraja. ‘There is a need for non-toxic, clinically compatible delivery tools. During my PhD, two new classes of biodegradable polymeric delivery technologies compatible with clinical applications have been developed.

‘These polymers form nanoparticles with a wide variety of drug molecules and have huge potential for developing nontoxic drug formulations. The most important applications are likely to be antimicrobial and anticancer formulations for clinical use. Furthermore, this technology may help to overcome delivery hurdles that hamper the development of gene therapy for many diseases.’

In addition to clinical applications, this technology can also be used to enhance research in basic science and drug development. ‘The Royal Veterinary College encouraged my supervisor, Dr Liam Good, and I to start a biotech company to develop the technologies for commercial and clinical applications. Tecrea Ltd (www.tecrea.co.uk) was founded in February 2012, and is based at the London Bioscience Innovation Centre, London.

‘Tecrea’s reagents for plasmid, RNAi and protein delivery have shown great promise in a number of academic and industrial labs. Indeed, Tecrea’s drug reformulation platform (Nanocin) has been successfully out-licenced to one biotechnology company and is being evaluated by a number of other biopharmaceutical companies. Tecrea aims to develop the delivery technology in a range of drug formulations for clinical use.’

Kantaraja has been actively involved in promoting awareness among UK and overseas students about the importance of harnessing innovation and believes that studying in the UK has allowed him to gain exposure to world-class research methodologies and facilities. Through his PhD studies, he has acquired the necessary skills and expertise to be able to tackle health problems that are prevalent in his



Kantaraja Chindera, 2009 Commonwealth Scholar from India

home country and find new ways to tackle infectious diseases. These new findings can be applied to combating drug resistant pathogens, which could ultimately result in improving commercial productivity as well as health outcomes for patients.

‘I am most grateful to the CSC for providing me with the opportunity to work on an exciting and innovative project in the UK. I was lucky to get a supportive supervisor who encouraged me to work in an area that has direct applications in clinics. It has been a great experience for me to work on a cutting-edge project and learn how to develop research findings into practical applications. In addition, I have gained diverse and valuable professional and personal contacts. I have enjoyed the experience

and I am very pleased that our research may be able to help improve animal and human health in the near future.’

PROFESSIONAL FELLOW GAINS IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE ON BIOENERGY

Gabriel Quansah is one of five 2012 Professional Fellows who were hosted by the Institute for Energy Systems at the University of Edinburgh in September-October 2012. Gabriel is a Research Scientist at the Council For Scientific And Industrial Research-Soil Research Institute in Ghana. His one-month Professional Fellowship involved lectures and case studies with input from distinguished lecturers and facilitators, and workshops, visits and networking with Scottish organisations working on climate change and bioenergy.

Gabriel found his Professional Fellowship – and specifically its focus – timely and appropriate. ‘There are global concerns about climate change and how it is impacting negatively on food security particularly in Africa. Food production in Africa is on a subsistence level and mostly on marginal soils that are unproductive. Yields are very low and the risk of food insecurity is a concern to many nations on the continent. There is the need to consider adaptation and mitigation strategies to reduce and respond to the risks that climate change poses to people’s lives and livelihoods.’

Gabriel’s research interest is biochar – the use of charcoal to enhance soil productivity. ‘Given my special interest in biochar, my expectation was that I would be introduced to best practice in biochar production and utilisation, as well as current research areas in relation to soil fertility improvement to combat food security and climate change.

‘Having had this great opportunity to hold a Professional Fellowship, I must say that my expectation has been met and even more. I have gained in-depth knowledge and insight into climate change and bioenergy issues. I also had the opportunity to learn from the other Professional

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Monira Rahman on her experience as a Commonwealth Professional Fellow hosted by Acid Survivors Trust International.

Having worked with survivors of acid and petrol attacks in Bangladesh for the past 14 years, I know that violence is a major obstacle for women's ability to access their rights. Until women have real equality, they will continue not only to suffer the most from poverty, but also be subjected to violence.

'All women have the right to live a life free from violence and free from the fear of violence.' Gender-based violence not only distresses women but also affects the whole family, community and society. Therefore it needs to be tackled from all corners. It would not have been possible to reduce the number of acid attacks by 70% in Bangladesh and support thousands of acid survivors to rebuild their lives without support from government, the media, donors, and international development organisations.

From the very beginning of its formation, the Acid Survivors Foundation in Bangladesh has been supported by the UK-based charity Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI), as well as DFID, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and Interburns (an international network for research, education, and training on burns).

My Commonwealth Professional Fellowship enabled me to spend 3 months in the UK at ASTI, closely observing the interventions of the UK government and charities to protect the rights of victims of gender-based violence and people with disfigurements, and campaign towards changing social attitudes towards those issues in the UK.

From my placement at Changing Faces, I learnt about important aspects of their 'Changing lives and changing minds' campaign. The charity provides individual needs-based psychosocial support to people with disfiguring conditions to empower them to challenge personal and social barriers, as well as working with healthcare professionals, teachers, and community workers to change negative attitudes towards disfigurement. Changing Faces works closely with the Centre for Appearance Research (CAR) at the University of West England to develop evidence-based psychosocial support services. Face IT (www.faceitonline.org.uk) is a major online program specially designed for young people to help them overcome trauma and gain the confidence to deal with body image issues.

My placement at Refuge, the domestic abuse

charity, was an eye-opening experience for me. I had the opportunity to shadow the National Domestic Violence Helpline services, and also visited Refuge-run shelters. I was surprised to learn that Refuge's huge campaign programme to prevent domestic violence is fully funded by the private sector. I will certainly take this spirit back to the commercial advertising companies working in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh is promoting public-private partnerships, but I hope we can exercise this more to combat violence against women and girls in Bangladesh.

I also visited burns units in hospitals in Bristol and Swansea, where I learnt two important approaches for treating burn victims. First, the 'Outlook Project', whereby burn survivors can access psychological support services even after they are discharged from hospital, helping them to cope with their changed situation. The second was the 'Outreach Project', where a team of nurses and occupational therapists work with community workers, patients, and their family members to develop a better understanding of burn scar management.

Through my Professional Fellowship, I have learnt that:

- The global recession means that charities are struggling for funding and that this struggle is even greater for those organisations dealing with issues related to violence against women.
- There is a huge body of knowledge on changing attitudes to and combating domestic violence that is directly relevant to those of us working in developing countries.
- We need better, stronger, and more effective international networking with sister organisations, to share resources and knowledge.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ASTI and my mentor Dr John Morrison for turning an application into a reality and for designing such a rich and varied development programme for me. I also wish to thank all the organisations and individuals who have contributed to my wonderful fellowship programme and made my professional development experience in the UK so valuable and so rewarding.

My final thanks, of course, go to the CSC for granting me this golden opportunity to help me and my own organisation contribute to the development of Bangladesh.



Gabriel Quansah, 2012 Commonwealth Professional Fellow at the University of Edinburgh

Fellows working on different aspects in this field, particularly composting, biogas, and biomass energy.'

Gabriel is currently involved in the Policy Innovation Systems for Clean Energy Security (PISCES) project, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which seeks to disseminate sustainable soil management practices in the ten regions of Ghana using biochar as a soil enhancer. 'The technology involves the establishment of demonstration trials, training of field extension agents, and the involvement of district assemblies and NGOs. It is expected that 20,000 farmers will be exposed to sustainable soil management practices in Ghana over the next 18 months. I will apply the knowledge, skills and experience gained during my Professional Fellowship to accomplishing this task successfully.

'Professionally, the fellowship offered a tremendous experience that will go a long way to enhance my career. I have gained new skills and knowledge and have been empowered greatly to face the challenges that may come my way in the discharge of my duties. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the CSC for the award. I have benefited greatly and will do all I can to improve the lives of the "poor farmers".'

CROSSING THE DIVIDE: PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS STRIVING FOR PEACE IN KASHMIR

Conciliation Resources, a peacebuilding NGO, hosted four Professional Fellows from India and Pakistan in 2012, with the aim of bringing together different sides of the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir. Here, we report on their activities and how they will turn these into practical actions for peace.

Conciliation Resources offers a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship programme which works to build the capacity of local partners, living in conflict-affected areas, in peacebuilding. It is a rare opportunity for partners from different backgrounds to sit together and plan a better future. The programme aims to support the Professional Fellows and encourages them to network at local level to build alliances for peace at various levels.

One of Conciliation Resources' focus regions is Jammu and Kashmir, which has been in turmoil since conflict started 66 years ago. With little shared analysis, conflicting narratives of views over a vast amount of time, and limited communication, peacekeeping exercises have proved difficult, if not impossible, and have undermined the roles of peacebuilders.

THE PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

Ayesha Saeed is currently teaching at the NUST Business School in Islamabad, Pakistan. During her Professional Fellowship, Ayesha focused on increasing the participation of the Kashmiri people in the peace process. In her view, the Kashmiri people have been 'disenfranchised' in the political process and through restrictions on communication and travel imposed by the states of India and Pakistan. It was because of this that local partners from the two sides have come together to learn about peacebuilding mechanisms and to exchange their experiences of conflict. It is vital to note that this is a cross-border peacebuilding project which aims not only to seek voices more widely, but also targets the women and youth of the region.

Syed Waqas Ali Kausar teaches at the Department of Governance at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in Islamabad and is engaged with different peacebuilding activities related to the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir. As a party to this conflict and a citizen of the region, Syed has a strong

urge to play a constructive role in bringing about positive and peaceful change. 'I am associated with Conciliation Resources' peacebuilding initiatives with youth and women to make a socio-political change. I also want to find out how to engage and build clusters of diverse (both ethnically and politically) and vibrant communities across the dividing lines.'

Ezabir Ali completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology in Kashmir and her Master's in Development Studies in the UK. She is currently working in the field of psycho-socio and economic development of women in Kashmir, and has over 20 years of experience in this area. She has trained over 150 people as 'barefoot' counsellors in the region, mostly to support women who are experiencing tension and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of the conflict.

Ezabir has travelled extensively across Jammu and Kashmir on the Indian-administered side to set up 'safe spaces', common meeting places to encourage women to come together to discuss issues such as health and violence with policymakers. The belief is that, by encouraging women to talk about their different experiences, perceptions, and understanding, the political process can be transformed. Including these first-hand experiences will lead to a holistic solution and an understanding of how a people-led movement for peace can be structured at grassroots level and conducted to influence national-level policymaking.

Dr Sapna Kamal Sangra has taught sociology at the University of Jammu (in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, on the Indian-administered side) for the last nine years. 'My PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies, with a specific focus on the plight of families at the international border between India and Pakistan, brought many opportunities for me to engage with likeminded people at both national and international level. My local understanding of conflict brought me

in association with Conciliation Resources and their conflict transformation interventions in Kashmir.'

Sapna says that, during her Professional Fellowship, conferences, workshops, and visits to academic institutions and international organisations working in the field of peacebuilding exposed her to best practices in the world of peacekeeping and beyond. In addition, she had the opportunity to engage with people from varied backgrounds and geographical locations, particularly conflict-hit regions such as Fiji, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. She believes that 'There is no better opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of these conflicts than through working together with these groups in mapping the conflicts, understanding the power relations, and planning the peace processes for a brighter future.'

WORKING TOGETHER TO END THE CONFLICT

Through its work in Jammu and Kashmir and the Professional Fellowship programme, Conciliation Resources has not only facilitated an understanding of the differences on each side of the conflict, but has also highlighted significant commonalities. The organisation has helped to identify the important role of communities in building and sustaining peace and strengthening interventions. It has offered an insight into understanding conflict and its complexity – that one view is not the same as another and that the impact of conflict on people varies significantly. Conciliation Resources has also provided an understanding of the uniqueness of each conflicted region and the fact that the timely use of appropriate skills can help people to move beyond the alleviation of immediate suffering towards a vision of peace and justice.

One particular focus has been the experiences of women in the region. Conciliation Resources aims to increase the participation of women in peacebuilding in Jammu and Kashmir, as they have experienced political violence, physical abuse,



(l-r) **Dr Sapna Kamal Sangra, Ezabir Ali, Syed Waqas Ali Kausar, and Ayesha Saeed**, 2012 Commonwealth Professional Fellows at Conciliation Resources

uncertainty, and marginalisation in their day-to-day lives for more than two decades. A holistic solution, which is currently not being taken into account or included in the dialogue process, can be developed if these women are brought together.

The Professional Fellows' combined enriched experience and critical thinking has created a stepping stone for furthering not just their academic

growth, but also their personal growth. They have learnt in detail about the plight of the families affected by the conflict, and have engaged with like-minded people at national and international level. They have not just gained conceptual clarity, but have also picked up practical tools to be utilised in the field of teaching, knowledge sharing, research, conflict transformation, and, most importantly, peacebuilding.

The experiences offered to these Professional Fellows by Conciliation Resources will inform their future work in the region, as they continue their efforts to increase Kashmiri participation in peacebuilding mechanisms. They aim to bring together important stakeholders and encourage them to be heard, to make a difference, and to act as a catalyst for change – and to understand the difference in choosing to be part of the problem or part of the solution.

THE CHALLENGE FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION: 2012 CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION MINISTERS

*As the number of students in primary and secondary education increases across the Commonwealth, tertiary education has to use innovative methods to increase access and help students and staff meet the changing needs of a global workplace. **Christine Humfrey**, Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner, reports back on discussions at the 18th Conference of Commonwealth Ministers.*

The 18th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (18CCEM) took place in August 2012 in Mauritius, in parallel with four other education-related conferences focused on youth, teachers, stakeholders, and post-secondary and higher education.

The agenda for the Post-Secondary and Higher Education Leaders' Forum (P2HELF) centred on the global expansionary policies for higher education. Currently, over 170 million students are engaged in HE worldwide and the speed and size of this expansion has led to questions concerning equity and access; the requirements of the labour market and the types of education best suited to meet them; the most efficient manner of delivery, including blended learning; and the most effective category of provider – whether public, private, or a partnership of the two.

The structure of P2HELF, with its five plenary sessions and series of concurrent discussion groups, facilitated debate and knowledge sharing. The plenary speakers, who included politicians, civil servants, and senior academics, practitioners and strategists in HE, offered a range of international perspectives, with many institutions facing similar issues in very dissimilar contexts. The presence of students and the accounts of their experiences as scholarship holders added an important dimension.

These three days of debate on the purpose, provision and shape of post-secondary education allowed heads of institutions and heads of government departments, as well as specialists and researchers in the finance, governance,

management and quality of tertiary education, to evaluate their current products and speculate on future activity. Is there a single model of HE financing that fits all nations, or even all institutions in one nation? What are the challenges and issues of increasing access to teacher training? How can equality of access be provided to allow success in the pursuit of diverse educational goals? How do we provide an integrated system of learning for a country that includes at least 62 disparate groups, and provide it totally free of cost? What kind of tertiary education is needed to prepare a highly skilled and trained workforce? What quality assurance and progression structure is needed in order for the qualification ladder provided to be valid and respected?

The questions were endless on a topic which was relevant for every nation and grounded in the belief that every nation should secure a fair and accessible HE and TVET (technical and vocational education and training) system which promotes social mobility and a skilled and high-value labour force. Widening participation and e-learning were seen as complementary issues which could support doctoral training needs, as well as undergraduate teaching.

The crafting of the forum's final statement for presentation to the ministers' conference was undertaken by six or seven P2HELF delegates, together with the conference secretariat. The delegates' statement expressed the clear gap between aspiration and reality in terms of access, equity, quality and resources, and recommended that:

- All member states should adopt targets for post-secondary participation. The Millennium Development Goal relating to attendance at primary school for all children has so far achieved 90% success, and an aspiration for the availability of tertiary education should flow from this.
- Participation in tertiary education should be based on principles of equality and fairness, and member governments should identify priority groups and strategies for increasing participation and, where necessary, provide the resources to implement it.
- The provision of high quality tertiary education necessitates the training and recruitment of qualified and motivated staff. Budgets should be earmarked for both initial and in-service training. It is clear that traditional methods of teaching will not meet the growing need for tertiary courses and qualifications, therefore blended learning is an essential tool.
- Post-secondary education of the right quality and scope makes demands on education budgets and budgets overall. New initiatives, innovative approaches, collaboration and partnership were all possible ways in which financial needs could be met

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the statement stressed the need for education ministers to recognise the vital importance of post-secondary education for all nations. The Commonwealth offers an ideal conduit through which to advise on successors to the Millennium Development Goals, and it seems appropriate that the success of the current goal relating to the early years of education should be



CSC gender focus group participants at the alumni reception

carried forward into a subsequent Commonwealth statement pertaining to post-secondary education.

It was with some sense of achievement that participants of P2HELF read section 23d in the final communiqué issued by ministers attending 18CCEM: '[Ministers] noted that post-secondary education had not been addressed in the existing Millennium Development Goals for Education and advocated that it be explicitly included in any forthcoming IAGs (Internationally Agreed Goals) for Education.'

An earlier section, 20, also commended the achievements of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) and recognised the success of its endowment fund. Post-secondary delegates would be particularly aware of both of these schemes. Indeed, a former Commonwealth Scholar was the conference keynote speaker. Dr Kenny Anthony (1985 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Law, University of Birmingham), Prime Minister of St Lucia, highlighted in his speech the power of education: 'Education is transformational. It can make immediate impacts on societies and economies... What is needed increasingly more in the real world are people who can think, solve problems, create, innovate, imagine and adapt'.

CSC GENDER FOCUS GROUP

The CSC has been concerned with the issue of gender – and its effect on scholarship and fellowship recruitment, selection, and alumni participation – for a considerable period of time. The contribution of past and present award holders is seen as vital to this development.

The attendance of two Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners, along with the Executive Secretary of the CSC, at 18CCEM provided an opportunity for the team to discuss the gender issue with a group of alumni. The gender focus group was kindly hosted by the University of Mauritius and convened by Vimi Dookhun (2009 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD Environmental Engineering, University of Mauritius and University of Surrey).

Although, for the most part, gender disadvantage is experienced by women, it is recognised that difficulties or prejudice can be experienced by all. On this occasion, the alumni who were able to attend were all women and all determined to remind us that Commonwealth Scholarship selections in Mauritius had achieved parity!

During the lively discussion, the group was able to identify a number of good reasons to set up a gender development group or network. There are many issues during pre-arrival and while living in the UK which raise especial problems for women and their families. Whether women brought their families with them or decided to come alone was an issue of key concern, as was the perception of the family remaining at home. The group believe that a network which allows the sharing of experience and solutions when applying for a scholarship, and then managing a life overseas, would be supportive and valuable. Such a network would involve applicants, students, and alumni not only in Mauritius, but across the Commonwealth.

MAURITIUS ALUMNI CHAPTER TAKES PART IN 18CCEM

Members of the UK Commonwealth Mauritius Alumni Chapter were active during the proceedings of 18CCEM. As well as coordinating the CSC gender focus group, a number of Mauritian alumni attended and presented papers at the Post Secondary and Higher Education Leaders' Forum (P2HELF). Dr Roshan Ramessur (1985 Commonwealth Scholar, BSc Marine Chemistry, Bangor University), Vice President of the chapter, was a member of the drafting committee which prepared the forum's final statement for presentation to the ministers' conference. The chapter also produced a video showcasing the achievements of alumni for delegates attending the CCEM, to highlight the impact of Commonwealth Scholarships in key sectors in Mauritius – watch it online at <http://youtu.be/faD94-dAeAg>.

About 50 alumni and guests attended a reception organised by the chapter, and hosted by the Executive Secretary of CSC, during the CCEM. The event provided alumni with an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of both the Commonwealth and Chevening Scholarship schemes and to look forward to their future development.

Dr Souda Rosunee, President of the chapter, welcomed guests at the reception, which was also attended by The Hon Dr Rajesh Jeetah (2002 Commonwealth Fellow, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Cambridge), currently Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology in Mauritius.

OUR ALUMNI

Alumni news

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLAR APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND



Mark Carney, 1991 Commonwealth Scholar and new Governor of the Bank of England

Mark Carney (1991 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, DPhil Economics, University of Oxford) has been announced as the next Governor of the Bank of England. He will serve in his current role as Governor of the Bank of Canada until May 2013, taking up his new post in June.

Since his DPhil at Oxford, Mark has worked in the private sector at Goldman Sachs, in the UK as well as Tokyo, New York, and Toronto. His public service includes the roles of Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Finance, and Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada; he was appointed Governor in 2008.

Mark has said that he is honoured to accept the demanding role at the Bank of England. 'This is a critical time for the British, European and global economies; a decisive period for reform of the global financial system including its leading financial centre, the City of London; and a crucial point in the Bank of England's history as it accepts vital new responsibilities.'

Professor Peter Oppenheimer was a Fellow at Christ Church, Oxford while Mark was studying for his DPhil, and remembers him as a 'wide-ranging' postgraduate, engaging in discussions

over international economics and exchange and monetary issues.

Peter believes that Mark is well equipped for his new role for a number of reasons. The Bank of Canada already has joint responsibility for both monetary policy and banking regulation, and Canada has not felt the effects of the global recession to degree that the UK has, despite its proximity to the United States. 'A good deal of the credit for that must go to Governor Carney', said Peter.

Unlike his predecessors at the Bank of England, Mark has investment banking experience, and Peter also praises his management style. 'He doesn't bully or immediately claim superior knowledge. He listens; and he seeks the views of colleagues and subordinates – but without shrinking from leadership.'

Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC, congratulated Mark on his new position. 'The CSC is delighted to learn of the appointment, which is another example of a Commonwealth Scholar rising to the very highest level of their profession.'

PROVIDING A ROLE MODEL FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Mususu Kaonda (2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Zambia, MSc Advanced Engineering Materials,



Mususu Kaonda, Commonwealth Scholar from Zambia

University of Liverpool) graduated with a Distinction in her Master's course, and returned to take up a post at the University of Zambia. Mususu became the first female lecturer to be appointed in the School of Mines, Department of Metallurgy and Materials. This achievement was recognised by widespread coverage in the press and on national television, with Mususu becoming a role model to encourage girls and women to consider studying maths and science subjects and pursuing a career in science.

Mususu was awarded a second Commonwealth Scholarship in 2012, to study for a PhD in Materials Science at the University of Birmingham. 'When I finish the PhD, my knowledge in my subject area will be broadened and I will acquire more research skills, thereby becoming more efficient in my lecturing profession. I will inspire girls to take up science subjects by giving talks to schoolchildren through the Engineering Institution of Zambia.'

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLAR AT THE OLYMPICS

Padmraj Patil (2011 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from India, MSc Water and Waste Water Engineering, Cranfield University) took part in the London 2012 Olympic Games as a performer in the opening ceremony and as a marshal for the athletes. Padmraj said, 'I am grateful to the CSC for granting me a Commonwealth Scholarship and the opportunity I have had to be a part of this spectacular ceremony.'



Padmraj Patil, 2011 Commonwealth Scholar, at the Olympic Stadium

Awards and prizes

Professor Emmanuel Adekeye (1970 Commonwealth Medical Scholar from Nigeria, Dental Surgery, University of London) was presented with a lifetime achievement award at the Biennial World Cleft Lip and Palate Congress in May 2012. The award recognised Emmanuel's academic contribution, invaluable services to African patients with maxillofacial deformities, and four decades of mentorship.

Wellen Atuhaire (2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, MSc Water and Environmental Management, University of Bristol) has been awarded the Best Taught Component prize for his course.

Dr Abayomi Jimoh (2005 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Biotechnology of the Brackish Water Prawn, Lagos State University and University of Hull) has had his finished thesis judged the best PhD thesis in the discipline of biological sciences within the Nigerian university system by the National Universities Commission, under the Nigerian Universities Doctoral Thesis Award Scheme. Abayomi said, 'This award is further testimony to the great work of the CSC, and I am grateful for the scholarship which enabled me to carry out the molecular aspect of the programme at the University of Hull. At the awards ceremony, I dedicated my award to the CSC as well as my supervisors'.

Dr Molefe Coper Joseph (2006 Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, PhD Sustainable Urban Livelihoods, University of Reading) has been awarded an Early Career Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust. The fellowship, tenable for 36 months at the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, will enable Molefe to conduct his research on mainstreaming men into gender and development in Botswana.

Publications

Dr Poonam Bala (1983 Commonwealth Scholar from India, PhD Sociology, University of Edinburgh) has edited *Contesting Colonial Authority: Medicine and Indigenous Responses in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century India* (Lexington Books, 2012).

Professor I M Dharmadasa (1977 Commonwealth Scholar from Sri Lanka, PhD Solid State Electronics, Durham University) has published *Advances in Thin-Film Solar Cells* (Pan Stanford Publishing, 2012).

Ernest Mufuruki (2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Tanzania, MA International Education and Development, Institute of Education, University of London) has published his Master's dissertation as a book, *Private Financing of Higher Distance Education in Tanzania: A Review on Higher Distance Education* (LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2012).

Nicholas Neufeld (2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, MSc Clinical Neuroscience, University College London) has published his Master's work as a paper, 'Reading without the left ventral occipito-temporal cortex' in *Neuropsychologia* (Volume 50, Issue 14, December 2012).

Dr Jakobus Van Zyl (1998 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa, PhD Engineering, University of Exeter) has published *Introduction to Integrated Water Meter Management* (Water Research Commission, South Africa, 2011).

Recent appointments

Dr Tsitsi Chataika (2002 Commonwealth Scholar from Zimbabwe, MEd Special Educational Needs, University of Leeds) has been appointed Lecturer at the Department of Education, University of Zimbabwe.

Professor Godwin Nyutaha Imandeh (1995 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Environmental Biology, Swansea University) has been appointed Professor of Entomology at the University of Jos, Nigeria.

Dr Seenii Mohamed Ismail (2005 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Sri Lanka, Economics, Development and Conflict Study, University of Bradford) has been reappointed Vice-Chancellor of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. He has also been appointed an Honorary Professor by the Shenyang Aerospace University, China.

Professor Emmanuel Aloysius Ngara (1971 Commonwealth Scholar from Zimbabwe, MPhil English and Education, Institute of Education, University of London) has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Zimbabwe Council of Higher Education.

Professor Malla Bhaskara Rao (2000 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Neurosurgery and Epilepsy Surgery, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences) has been appointed Professor of Neurosurgery and Head of Unit at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, India.

Professor Saleem Raza Samo (1996 Commonwealth Scholar from Pakistan, PhD Building Energy Assessment Methods, University of Manchester) has been appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, Pakistan.

Dr Eris D Schoburgh (2010 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Jamaica, Local Governance Institutional Capacity, University of Manchester) has been appointed Associate Dean for Special Initiatives and Outreach in the Faculty of Social Sciences, and promoted to Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government, at the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica.

Professor Stephen Charles Vasciannie (1984 Commonwealth Scholar from Jamaica, DPhil International Law, University of Oxford) has been appointed Jamaican Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the Organisation of American States.

Have you changed job, email or postal address? Let us know at alumnitrace@cscuk.org.uk

Please note that all employment information received by the CSC will be added to our database and included in our annual refresh of the online Directory.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Following the recent launch of the CSC's Public Health Professional Network on LinkedIn, three alumni explain how they have had an impact in the field of health care – from international policy implementation to improving community health provision.

Professor Rifat Atun (1982 Commonwealth Medical Scholar from Cyprus, MB BS Clinical Medicine, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences) is currently Professor of International Health Management and Head of the Health Management Group at Imperial College London. He heads a multidisciplinary group with research focusing on innovation in health systems both in the UK and internationally.



Rifat Atun, 1982
Commonwealth Scholar
from Cyprus

Rifat says that his Commonwealth Scholarship has been 'critically important' to his career in medical research. His post at Imperial gives him the opportunity to improve health care for those most in need. 'The research, which spans more than 20 countries in four continents, includes collaborations with leading universities and institutions abroad.'

Between 2008 and 2012, Rifat was a member of the Executive Management Team of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, based in Geneva, Switzerland. 'I led the Strategy, Performance and Evaluation Cluster. The experience was most rewarding; with a portfolio of more than USD 22 billion in 150 countries, the Global Fund rapidly established itself as the largest international funder of health programmes globally, with the objective of addressing the HIV, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics.'

'An exciting aspect was chairing the Phase 2 Panel, which assessed the performance of Global Fund-supported grants and made recommendations for continued funding for additional periods of three years or more.' The panel's decisions enabled more than 3.5 million people with AIDS to receive antiretroviral treatment, funded the distribution of more than 100 million insecticide nets, and ensured the provision of treatment to more than 2 million

patients with tuberculosis – all within the space of few years.

Rifat's recent policy research has identified inefficiency in the allocation of malaria funding (with the University of Oxford), and demonstrated the health and economic benefits of investing in antiretroviral treatment for those affected by AIDS in Africa (with Harvard University).

Professor Wah-Yun Low (1989 Commonwealth Scholar from Malaysia, PhD Psychology, University of Surrey) is a Professor of Psychology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Malaysia. In addition to teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students, her research interests include sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, ageing, and men's health, and she undertakes research consultancies with local government and international agencies.



Wah-Yun Low, 1989
Commonwealth Scholar
from Malaysia

Wah-Yun is also Head of the Scholarly Publication Support Unit at the university, which provides a scientific editing service and trains researchers, academics, and postgraduate students in communicating the results of their research effectively and publishing their research in relevant research journals.

Wah-Yun led a UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) research consultancy project dealing with the impact of HIV/AIDS on marginalised communities in Malaysia, which had a profound effect on her personally. 'I am humbled by the experience gained mixing with people living with HIV/AIDS and learning how they have fought to maintain their quality of life and their rights to healthcare services, and dealt with the stigma and discrimination they face in society.' At the end of the project, a policy brief was presented to UNFPA and discussions were held

with government agencies, NGOs, and civil society organisations in the field to implement programmes aimed at improving the quality of life of these communities.

Remmy Mukonka (2010 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Zambia, Public Health and Education, George House Trust) is an HIV/AIDS Educational Trainer at the Ministry of Education in Zambia. As well as providing HIV/AIDS communications and institutional training, Remmy undertakes countrywide provision of technical guidance on HIV/AIDS programmes, relationship building, and grant management. Implementing behavioural change management involves working with teachers, support staff, and young people to accelerate the education sector's response to HIV/AIDS.



Remmy Mukonka, 2010
Commonwealth Professional
Fellow from Zambia

'My Professional Fellowship exposed me to top management systems, people skills, prudent use of resources, and change management. One year after my return, the Ministry of Education identified my abilities and promoted me to head HIV programming at a national level, a position that gives me the privilege to advise on and technically guide the strategic direction of the Ministry on HIV and AIDS.'

Directly as a result of the mentoring he received during his Professional Fellowship, Remmy has acquired skills in dealing with policy issues and is now leading a review of the Ministry's workplace policy on HIV/AIDS. 'My work now is recognised at a regional level by UNESCO and UNICEF. This has been the greatest impact from my fellowship and I remain greatly and profoundly indebted to the George House Trust.'

PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar David Musoke is using his expertise to help equip others with the skills to improve primary health care in Uganda.

Prior to his Distance Learning Scholarship in 2007, David was a Public Health Officer at Entebbe Municipal Council, Uganda. He had a broad range of responsibilities in overseeing the environmental health of the community, monitoring water quality, solid waste management, and waste water and pollution control. Another key area was ensuring food hygiene and safety, as well as monitoring and supervising all public health interventions and primary health care activities in the region.

David was keen to apply for the Distance Learning Scholarship to study MSc International Primary Health Care at University College London as it would enable him to develop his role at the council. 'I did the MSc mainly for career advancement – to be able to increase knowledge and skills that I would use for my future work, including best practice, teaching and research.'

The course was very relevant to David's work, with most modules being applicable to his health care responsibilities. 'However, the area from the course that is very useful to me at present is the research process, including the research methods and dissertation modules. This directly relates to teaching and research in my current work at Makerere University. I also found the skills I gained in scientific writing and literature reviews very useful.'

For David, a key benefit of his scholarship was being able to remain in his community and in his job, while broadening his experience of primary health care. 'Studying by distance learning enabled me to continue with my work while pursuing the degree. This ensured continuity in my career prospects, as opposed to being away from my job if I was on a full-time programme away from my country. I was also able to use the knowledge and skills obtained from the course immediately in my work.'

In common with many people, David found time management the biggest difficulty while studying via distance learning. 'The main challenge I faced



David Musoke, 2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Uganda

was finding enough time for the course, given my work commitments. For this reason, I had to devise ways of spending more time on my studies, for example, by working late in the evenings and over the weekends.'

David started working at Makerere University in 2007, soon after starting his MSc. 'On completion of the course in 2010, I was promoted from Teaching Assistant to Assistant Lecturer, which was a major career advancement. In this new position,

was successful. I was awarded public health books and materials for Makerere University School of Public Health worth £2,000. These materials have since been very useful to students and faculty at the university.'

David's Distance Learning Scholarship provided him with opportunities to broaden his professional career. He is currently involved in several projects to improve primary health care in Uganda. One scheme is promoting an integrated approach to malaria

prevention in rural communities. This project, implemented in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University, advocates the use of several strategies in a holistic manner to help households to prevent the occurrence of malaria in endemic areas. David is also still

collaborating with his tutors from his MSc course. 'I am in the process of publishing some research work together with my former tutors at University College London.'

While acknowledging the demands of a distance learning course, David has been able to benefit from using new vocational skills in his work. Like many other Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, he has been able to share his knowledge with colleagues and students, enabling his scholarship to have an impact far beyond the initial recipient.

**On completion of the course, I was promoted.
In this new position, I have been able to take on
more obligations and responsibilities.**

I have been able to take on more obligations and responsibilities, including teaching and supervising postgraduate students.' David also undertakes research, consultancy and community service.

David's studies benefited his department in a particularly direct way. A tutor on his MSc course told students about a funding opportunity for health resources offered by the British Medical Association/British Medical Journal Information Fund for developing countries. 'I then wrote and submitted an application for my university, which

OUR IMPACT

The CSC Evaluation Team takes the lead in identifying and measuring the effect that funding scholarships and fellowships has on individuals, institutions, and, on a wider scale, communities and societies. **Faruk Barabhuiya**, one of two new members of the team, reports on their latest activities.

WHY IS EVALUATION IMPORTANT?

Evaluation ensures that the CSC is doing its best for award holders, by helping us use resources in a responsible and strategic way. As we learn about how our funding is making an impact, we can justify continued funding and also make improvements to the way we work.

2012 EVALUATION SURVEY

A major part of our work to date is a survey of alumni to find out what they have achieved and what part their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship has played in those achievements.

Evaluation surveys are sent to a fifth of alumni each year on a rolling basis, with invitations based on the year of award. So, in 2012, alumni members whose award years end in 2 or 7 were asked to complete the survey.

In total, the survey was sent to 1,494 alumni members who held awards commencing in years ending in 2 and 7 and for whom we held contact details that could be assumed to be current. 360 alumni completed the survey, and the main findings are as follows.

Gender

- 71% male, 29% female (total alumni: 66% male, 34% female)

Regions

- Sub-Saharan Africa 34%, South Asia 30%, Australasia 13%, North America 9%, Far East 6%, Caribbean 5%, Europe 2%, Pacific 1%

Disciplines studied

- Science, technology and engineering 25%, Health 23%, Environment 16%, Governance 8%, Other 3%, Agriculture 9%, Growth 7%, Education 7%, International relations 2%

Knowledge and skills

- 89% reported an increase in knowledge, skills, the ability to utilise skills and/or the ability to make changes at work.
- 73% indicated that it was true or completely true that they have been able to introduce new practices or innovations into their workplace as a result of the skills/knowledge acquired through their award.

Importance of award

- 68% indicated that it would have been impossible or near impossible for them to complete their chosen programme of study in the UK without a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship.

Further qualifications and employment

- 52% gained a further qualification after their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship.
- 69% obtained a more senior post than the one they had before undertaking their award within 12 months of completing it. 79% of these alumni indicated that their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship helped them gain this employment.
- 69% stated that their employer was either supportive or very supportive of their application for a scholarship or fellowship.
- 82% are currently working or, if retired, live in the same region as the country of which they hold citizenship.

Impact

- 68% reported affecting change at an institutional level, 53% at a local level, and 43% at a national level.
- 97% reported having some kind of impact in one of the development priority areas (see box).
- Out of the eight development priority areas (see box), Education is where most alumni reported having had an impact (90%), followed by Environmental Issues (48%), and Health (43%).

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY AREAS

- Economic Growth and the Private Sector
- Education
- Environmental Issues
- Gender Equality
- Governance, Security and Conflict
- Population Growth and Development
- Poverty Reduction
- Strengthening Healthcare Systems

The results show quite conclusively that Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships have not only increased expertise, but also that the skills gained on award are directly relevant to the workplace. Alumni are empowered to take on leadership roles, such as passing on skills and knowledge to others and introducing new practices and innovations.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The next survey will be sent out in March 2013 to those with award years ending in 3 or 8. If you receive an email asking you to complete the survey, please do take the time to respond if you can – your participation will be very much appreciated!

Figure 1: 2012 evaluation survey – award discipline of respondents

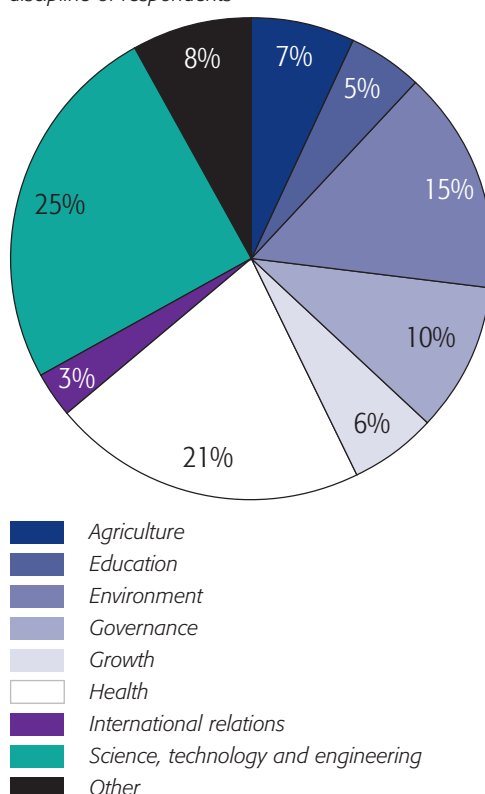
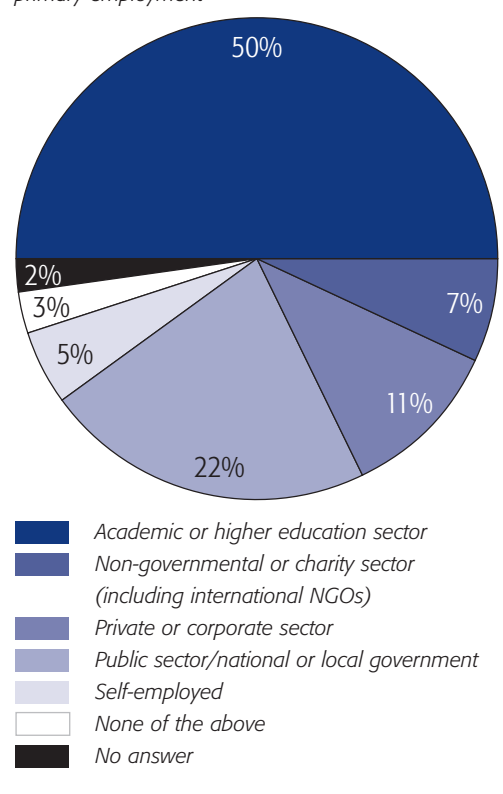


Figure 2: 2012 evaluation survey – sector of primary employment



Alumni impact on the environment

Kathryn Scurfield, on a forthcoming report.



Lenah Nakhone (r), 1986 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya

The next report to be published by the CSC Evaluation Team will look at the impact that alumni have had on global environmental issues. *Evaluating Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom: Assessing impact in environmental sustainability and climate change* takes an in-depth look at the important role that alumni have played in key areas relating to the environment.

Data for the report, which is divided into five sections, was collected from the alumni database and from an in-depth alumni survey that was distributed in 2008. The report's first chapter explores the relationship between higher education, scholarships, environmental sustainability, and development. Chapter two examines the spread of our alumni who have held a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship in an environment-related subject area.

Chapter three provides a detailed overview of survey responses. It looks at the spread of alumni who stated having impact on environment issues and disaggregates the data by region and gender. It also outlines how undertaking a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship has benefited alumni in a variety of ways, including improving their careers, increasing their analytical and technical skills, and developing their ability to influence decisions in their workplaces.

Chapter four consists of short individual case studies of alumni that showcase the kinds of work they have been involved in in different environmental areas, including food security, climate change and environmental resources, sanitation and safe drinking water, renewable energy, and rural housing.

Finally, chapter five provides qualitative data from in-depth interviews with four of our distinguished alumni: Professor Anoja Wickramasinghe (1980 Commonwealth Scholar from Sri Lanka, PhD Forest Ecology, University of Sheffield), Dr Nicholas Ozor (2005 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Agriculture, University of Nigeria and University of Reading), Professor Lenah Nakhone (1986 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya, PhD Soil Chemistry, University of Nottingham), and David McDonald Bynoe (2006 Commonwealth Scholar from Barbados, MSc Environmental Economics and Environmental Management, University of York). The in-depth interviews, in particular, highlight the significant impact that alumni have at all stages of their careers, and also confirm the benefits that Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships awards have at individual, institutional, and societal level.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

- The number of awards granted for study in the field of environment has generally increased

over the past 50 years. From 1960-1964, 12% of award holders held a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship in an environment-related subject, compared to 22% from 2005-2009.

- The majority of such awards have been held by individuals from developing countries that are often disproportionately affected by environmental issues. In the 2000s, 55% of award holders studying an environment-related subject came from sub-Saharan Africa, and 35% from South Asia.
- There has been a rise in the number of women completing environment- and agriculture-related awards. Almost a third (32%) of Scholars and Fellows holding awards in these subjects were female in the 2000s, compared to 1% in the 1960s.

The report also confirms key findings outlined in previous reports, which further demonstrate the importance of continuing support through international scholarships:

- Awards enable recipients to gain invaluable knowledge, and analytical and technical skills. 100% of respondents reported gaining knowledge in their field of expertise, and almost 100% stated that they had increased their analytical and technical skills.
- Scholarships and fellowships promote international linkages between people and institutions and create relationships that foster international collaboration.
- Awards help recipients to make advances in their careers and also empower them to have impact in their workplace. 88% of respondents who reported having an impact on environmental sustainability stated that they obtained career advancements during the 12-month period following their award. 97% of respondents asserted that their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship increased their ability to have influence and make changes in their workplace. 94% of respondents said that they were able to introduce new practices or innovations in the workplace as a direct result of skills and knowledge acquired through their award.
- Impact can be found at three levels: through involvement in projects, socioeconomic impact, and influencing government policy. Our results show that, for almost all three levels, the highest impact was made through specific projects, followed by socioeconomic impact, and then influence on government policy.
- Studying in the UK provides a number of benefits that many award holders would not be able to access in their home countries. This includes better infrastructure, more reliable working environments, access to advanced technology, and better access to resources.

NETWORKS AND EVENTS



*A discussion session at the **CSC Welcome Programme 2012***

CSC WELCOME PROGRAMME 2012

The annual Welcome Programme for new Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows was held on 19 November 2012, at Senate House, London.

Secretary of State for International Development, the Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, addressed attendees in the morning. Other speakers included Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General, and Professor Justin Fisher, Director of the Magna Carta Institute, Brunel University.

One of the afternoon sessions featured a panel discussion on the importance of the CSC Community. The panel featured Preksha Gupta (2010 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Molecular Biology, Imperial College London – and coordinator of the CSC South East Regional Network), Olajide Olusola (2012 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Environmental Sustainability Systems, Sheffield Hallam University), who is being supervised by a former Commonwealth Scholar, and Aishwarya Padmanabhan, (2012 Commonwealth Scholar from India, LLM, King's College London).

Aishwarya said, 'The three of us talked about our different experiences in helping other Scholars and Fellows through the CSC Regional Networks, as well

as our aims to inspire other Scholars and Fellows in the future. Olusola discussed how he hopes his research on solar energy can help build sustainable communities in Nigeria, and I shared how I am the first from my home institution to be selected for a Commonwealth Scholarship. All this took place before a vast audience of Scholars, Fellows and Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners.

'It was a highly memorable event, culminating with a reception at Canada House. It was heartwarming to see such camaraderie and bonhomie amongst the Scholars and Fellows during the event. I found it extremely heartening to personally thank all those who made the scholarship possible for not only me, but also other scholars and fellows from across the Commonwealth.'

Regional Networks

MIDLANDS AND OXFORD

The Midlands and Oxford Regional Network organises both social and academic events, enabling award holders to make new friends and enjoy new activities. Recent seminars have included

'Planning your research' and 'Biofeedback as tool for managing stress' at the University of Nottingham, plus a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon and an end-of-year get-together at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Glasshouse.

NORTH WEST

The North West Regional Network organised an event at the University of Lancaster in June 2012 where 11 Scholars shared their research and personal experiences. Researchers from the Universities of Lancaster, Liverpool and Manchester explained their diverse array of research to fellow Scholars. Research topics included:

- Natural immunity against pneumonia
- Radioactive polonium recovery from environmental samples
- Soil contaminant degradation endpoint determination
- Mental health and socioeconomic inequalities in the UK
- Molecular mechanism and treatment of heart failure and arrhythmia
- Marketing performance of organisations
- Agricultural practice improvement to encompass climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation
- Thermoelectric material development for power generation

- Biological data analysis method for understanding of evolution
- Role of social background in higher education choice in Bangladesh
- Improvement of wireless communication systems

The meeting was organised by Sanjoy K Chowdhury (2011 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Medical Science/Cardiovascular Science, University of Manchester) and Bolaji Bernard Babatunde (2011 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD Coastal Pollution Monitoring, University of Port Harcourt and University of Lancaster).

WALES

Recent highlights from the Wales Regional Network include a local welcome event, which saw 2012 Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows from six different countries meet and share experiences at the start of their awards.

The Christmas party weekend in Aberystwyth provided an opportunity for family members to participate in the social activities. The year ended on a high for a few members, who completed the journey to Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales.

Join your local Regional Network – visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-regional-networks>

Professional Networks

GENDER

One of the main purposes of the Gender Network is to highlight gender-related issues within the CSC's work. Though vast improvements have been made over the years, the gender disparity in CSC schemes is significant. Data disaggregated by gender reveals that 72% of awards taken up from 1960 to the present were by males, and only 28% by females. Though in recent years the gap has narrowed (58% male, 42% female), there is still an obvious difference that needs to be addressed.

In addition, a study conducted on alumni use of the CSC Professional Networks showed that only 14.8% of respondents belonged to the

Gender Network, highlighting the need to increase membership. As a result, the Gender Professional Network was relaunched at the CSC Welcome Programme in November 2012.

The Network now operates via LinkedIn and, while it will provide the same platform for information sharing and dissemination as the other Professional Networks, it also functions as a support mechanism for current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, linking them together so they can discuss academic or work-related issues.

PUBLIC HEALTH

A large proportion of alumni work in public health; a recent report showed that the absolute number of people taking up Commonwealth Scholarships or Fellowships in health-related subjects has tended to rise decade on decade, and in total represents just over one-fifth of all awards.

The Public Health Network has now also moved to LinkedIn. The Network provides members with news of recent developments, publications, and grants, and also enables them to share their current activities.

Dr Hafiz T A Khan (2005 Commonwealth Fellow from Bangladesh, Demographic and Health Consequences of Ageing in Bangladesh, University of Oxford) is currently a Senior Lecturer at Middlesex University, UK, and is an active member of the Network. He said, 'I find the LinkedIn-based Public Health Network very useful for disseminating as well as sharing knowledge and research experiences. It is a real opportunity for building bridges between current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows. I have benefited a lot from learning about other members' research work. Sometimes research queries and questions that are posted help us to rethink and seek a better solution'.

Feedback from members is welcomed on areas of research or funding opportunities that are most relevant to their needs.

EDUCATION

The Education Network has also transferred to LinkedIn. The Network is popular amongst Scholars, Fellows and alumni, especially given the strong ties many have with academic institutions and research. Professor John Morgan, coordinator of the

Network and former Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner, provides a comprehensive guide to current trends, publications, and events, and welcomes input and posts from members.

Alumni events

ALUMNI ATTEND HIGH COMMISSION RECEPTION IN BOTSWANA

Former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows were amongst guests at a reception hosted by HE Ms Jennifer Anderson, British High Commissioner to Botswana, in July 2012. The reception was held during the Commonwealth Summer School, with guests drawn from the Summer School and Commonwealth and Chevening alumni.

KENYA CHAPTER MAKES LINKS WITH NEW SCHOLARS

The Kenya Chapter held a range of social and networking events during 2012, as well as participating in events with key stakeholders in Kenya. Chapter representatives also attended a pre-departure event at the British High Commission in Nairobi in August 2012, to facilitate networking with new UK government-funded scholars, as well as alumni.

CSC PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

The CSC has seven Professional Networks for both current Scholars and Fellows in a range of professional subject areas:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Economics and Finance
- Education
- Environment
- Gender
- Governance
- Public Health
- Science and Technology

To join a Network, you first need to sign up to LinkedIn, and then join the Commonwealth Scholarships parent group at <http://linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships> – once you are a member, you can then join any of the CSC Professional Network subgroups.

CSFP NEWS

Andrew Harvey, a 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada supported by the CSFP endowment fund, describes the motivation behind his studies and his plans for the future.

Flying over East Africa, I remember being stunned by the patchwork of browns and greens and reds that spread out underneath me. A quotation from J M G Le Clézio bubbled up to the front of my mind: 'Today, the most insignificant tracts of land, from the heart of the Amazon to the frozen canyons of the Antarctic, have been examined, photographed, analyzed by the cold eye of the satellite. If there remains a secret, it is to be found inside the soul, in its long progression of desires, of legends, of masquerades and of chants which blend with time and resurface and run across the skin'.

Neither of these events – flying to Tanzania, nor musings about Le Clézio – were happenstance. Two years earlier, I had been teaching at a small roadside school in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, covering blackboards with trite grammar rules, while simultaneously coming to terms with the region's mind-boggling diversity. The following year, I holed myself away at the central library of Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada, writing about the new Nobel laureate J M G Le Clézio, becoming increasingly entangled in his nightmarish visions of modernity. My thesis, titled *J.M.G. Le Clézio: The Voice of the Voiceless*, included a rather vague sentence proclaiming the necessity of 'reclaiming voices'. In the context of my thesis, 'reclaiming voices' was a poor conclusion – wobbly in its brevity. How does one go about reclaiming a voice? Over the course of the next two years, this was the question I would seek to answer.

I began studying language endangerment. I studied Irish Gaelic, the language that my ancestors used when they arrived in Newfoundland. I went to Labrador and observed speakers of Innu-Aimun in Sheshatshui, rebuilding their traditional identity in their mother tongue. I discovered great joy in the thousands of different iterations of the human spirit as manifested in language. Simultaneously, I cultivated an anxiety over the rate of language extinction worldwide: of the thousands of languages currently spoken today, only 50% will continue to be used at the turn of the coming century.

One of the areas predicted to undergo the most drastic levels of language extinction is East Africa. Therefore, when the opportunity to take up a Commonwealth Scholarship to study MA Linguistics at the University of Dar es Salaam presented itself, the decision was natural, and I moved to Tanzania.



Andrew Harvey, 2011 Commonwealth Scholar supported by the CSFP endowment fund

Language extinction matters: the level of the tragedy summed up well by a good friend of mine named Aloice. During a trek through the Usambara Mountains, our party became lost in the rainforest. That night, we cleared the undergrowth with machetes, set up our tents, and spent the remainder of the night sitting within the tiny sphere circumscribed by the firelight, talking, joking, and telling stories. Using language to reassert our humanity against the wilderness. The climax of the night arrived with a vivid epic told in the local Kisambaa language and recounting the history of Simbawene, the traditional king of the Sambaa people. Afterwards I asked why Aloice, fluent in both English and Swahili, had chosen to recite the story in Kisambaa. He looked at me, and simply said, 'I use my language because it is the key to my culture. Without my culture, I am a refugee'.

Culture is humanity crystallised. Language, as a manifestation of culture, is humanity's essence. 'Reclaiming voices' is about reaffirming that humanity.

I am currently writing this article in central Tanzania, where I have come to live for one year with an ethnic group called the Gorwáa. With their

guidance and support, I will learn the language, develop an alphabet, and, through my MA thesis, lay the theoretical foundations for a community-based language documentation programme which will see the production of the first grammar book, and the compilation of the first dictionary. None of these skills can be developed without practical experience. I therefore expect the coming months to be stimulating, challenging, and sometimes frustrating, but ultimately to be a formative period both professionally and personally.

It is my goal that, upon completion of subsequent doctoral studies, the Gorwáa language will, for the first time in its history, be available for examination by theoretical linguists; Gorwáa children will be able to read in their native tongue; and Gorwáa traditional knowledge can be stored in books. The direct benefits to the people could be considerable, and the indirect benefits (for example, community pride in having a written language) just as positive. A majority of languages remain undocumented – both in Tanzania and throughout the rest of the world – and if, throughout my career, I can contribute to changing that, I feel I will have succeeded in making a contribution to science, and indeed, to discovering that secret of the soul described by Le Clézio.

COUNTRY PROFILE – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



San Fernando, Trinidad

To date, 422 Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships have been awarded to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who have applied through the national nominating agency, the Ministry of Public Administration, Scholarships and Advanced Training Division. According to the ministry, Commonwealth Scholarships are 'integral in addressing the shortage of manpower in critical areas of development and in particular the public service in Trinidad and Tobago'.



Dr Nadeem Hosein, 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from Trinidad and Tobago

Dr Nadeem Hosein (2012 Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Clinical Neurology, University College London) was motivated to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship by two of his mentors who are former Commonwealth Scholars. Additionally, he had a strong desire to help address the developmental challenges in internal medicine and neurology in Trinidad and Tobago, where there are delays in diagnosing and treating patients, due to an acute shortage of trained neurologists, and longer waiting times for clinical appointments.

Nadeem likes the 'the diversity of colours, ethnicities and cultures' he experiences living in London. He found that the transition into life in London was made more manageable by the 'the hard work of the diligent staff' at the CSC.

Nadeem is confident that the clinical skills he acquires in the UK will directly enhance the lives of the patient population in Trinidad and Tobago, which will be of tangible benefit to his home country. His particular goal is 'to introduce acute thrombolysis for eligible patients with ischemic strokes' at the hospital he works for in south Trinidad, as this has the potential to decrease morbidity associated with the disease.

The CSC has a large and active alumni community in Trinidad and Tobago. Alumni have achieved tremendous outcomes in their fields of expertise after completing their awards, and have made significant contributions to development in their home country. For example, **Dr Shelton Nicholls** (1991 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Economics, Queen

Mary, University of London; 2000 Commonwealth Fellow, Economics, University of Nottingham) is now Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr Karla Georges (2005 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD Veterinary Epidemiology, University of the West Indies at St Augustine and Newcastle University) lectures in veterinary public health at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of the West Indies at St Augustine. Her doctoral research was one 'Detecting arthropod transmitted haemopathogens of companion animals using a reverse line blot hybridization assay' and, since completing her award, Karla has continued her research on tick-borne diseases.

Karla feels that, as an alumnus, she is part of a group of individuals who are passionate about their field of study and who have all excelled in different areas, making it an honour to have been awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship. In addition, being part of the CSC community has provided networking opportunities with like-minded people throughout the Commonwealth.

Karla has been working on transferring technology to the School of Veterinary Medicine both to build capacity in using molecular methods in clinical diagnosis and to strengthen research that benefits the country. In addition, her department is also working on improving other areas of molecular research and, eventually, providing diagnostic services for veterinary diseases in the region.



COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

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 CSC's secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities; financial administration services are 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.

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