



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

COMMONWEALTH KNOWLEDGE

ISSUE #8 SEPTEMBER 2019



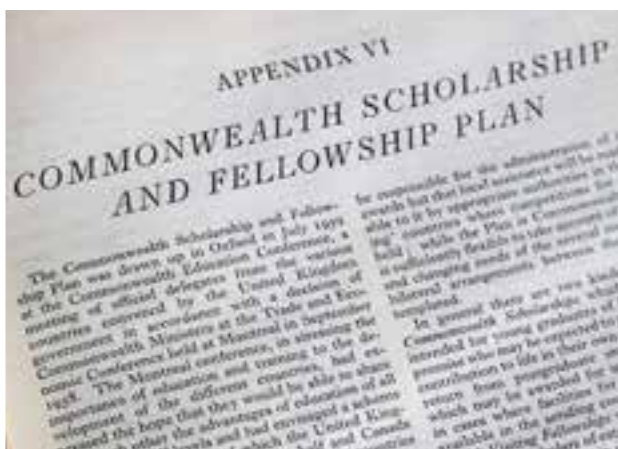
**A CONNECTED
COMMONWEALTH**

*Celebrating 60 years of Commonwealth Scholarships
with increased opportunities for collaboration*

60

CONTENTS

4 THE FIRST WORD



5 60 years in numbers

A timeline of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission from 1959 to 2019

6 Fit for purpose

Florence Mbithi discusses her bioengineering research to develop a self-adjusting lower limb prosthetic socket system



8 Lighting the way with solar villages

I M Dharmadasa discusses the Solar Village Project and how his research is promoting clean energy technologies for social development and poverty reduction in Sri Lanka



10 Saving lives through the laboratories

Mustapha Dibbasey explores ways in which The Gambia can improve haematological cancer treatment across the country through enhanced laboratory practices

12 Sharing lessons in heart care

Deepa Sasikumar explains how information and expertise will help expand teaching and research within India's paediatric cardiology care institutes

13 Cracking down on old models in St Lucia

Mario Chicot explains how his Commonwealth Scholarship will support the development of new approaches to law enforcement in St Lucia

14 All that glitters

Epifânia Langa looks at the sugar and cashew industries in Mozambique, and the factors preventing the country from achieving its industrial potential



16 Ethical governance

Mohammad Ali Mubarak Kisubi, who was appointed as the first Ethics Officer by the African Development Bank, discusses the key elements of ensuring ethics and integrity in governance

18 Balancing act

Bensolo Ken discusses how best to balance conservation in Papua New Guinea with industrial growth

20 60th Anniversary of the CSC: Research Impact Event

22 Learning from experience

Rokeya Begum Shafali discusses the importance of including older community members in disaster management

24 Turning up the heat on pests

Ramakrishnan Vasudeva explores processes to help eliminate several devastating agricultural pest infestations

25 Representing the minority

Okechukwu Effoduh shares his passion for human rights advocacy and the importance of human rights education

26 Educational inequalities

Vijitha Rajan explores how contemporary views may be damaging the educational experiences of migrant children in Bangalore

28 Current Commonwealth Scholars funded by the Department for Education

30 Alumni news

34 Events

38 Celebrating 20 years of Split-site Scholarships

39 Get involved!

THE FIRST WORD

I am pleased to welcome you to this special 60th anniversary edition of *Common Knowledge* showcasing and celebrating the achievements of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows. In this edition, as well as reading about ground-breaking research from our Scholars, you can trace the CSC timeline from 1959 to 2019, featured only in this issue of *Common Knowledge*.

Sixty years ago, a small group of people, meeting in Oxford, agreed on a simple, inspiring and ultimately influential idea: that scholarship, global understanding and peaceful co-existence would all be enhanced if intelligent and motivated scholars from different nations could live and study for a period in another nation's university.

The UK Government made a significant financial commitment to The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP). This Plan was rapidly adopted by the Commonwealth, and the UK Government's commitment has endured throughout the 60 years since it helped to create (by Act of Parliament) an organisation that would, with independence and integrity, make awards to Scholars to study in the UK and support them to be successful. That organisation is of course the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC).

All of the current 14 Commissioners – and I am sure this is true of the Commissioners who preceded them – are proud to contribute to this successful and prestigious programme. During those 60 years of the CSC, over 27,500 Scholars and Fellows have benefited from CSC awards and have continued to make outstanding contributions to science, government, scholarship, medicine, health care, creative arts, business and in every aspect of life, culture and development.

In this 8th issue of *Common Knowledge* you will read how current and recent Scholars and Fellows are applying the skills and knowledge gained during their studies in the UK (or through distance learning with a UK university). The challenge we put to our Scholars and alumni is to demonstrate how they, strengthened by their learning, can make a beneficial impact in their country, if not the world at large. This is in keeping with the CSC's commitment to the UK Government and Parliament, and through them to the UK citizens who fund the CSC, that investment in scholarships will have a developmental impact.

Personally, I am inspired by these articles and I hope you will also be captivated and inspired. There is only room in *Common Knowledge* for a sample of the wonderful stories and achievements of CSC Scholars. We could fill a dozen similar volumes with hundreds of personal accounts of transformation, perseverance and the determined application of knowledge to solve problems. That is what our Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows do.

Our investment in Scholarships and Fellowships is focused on six themes. These are consistent with global challenges, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with UK Government strategic priorities. This issue of *Common Knowledge* reports on our Scholars' contributions and impact in relation to those six themes. Science and technology has always been a key part of the CSC's investment, so I read with interest the article '*Lighting the way with solar villages*' where our 1977 Scholar IM Dharmadasa reminds us that light enables reading, hence learning and therefore development. Resilience and effective responses to crises will be increasingly essential as we seek to cope with climate change.

One of our themes – Access, Inclusion and Opportunity – also challenges us in the CSC to reflect on and change how we work and how we select awardees, as well as providing a thematic area for study and research. In this edition, two of our Scholars, Effoduah (2014) and Rajan (2018) report on the importance of human rights education and the need to study educational inequalities among migrant children respectively.

In addition to highlighting the work of our Scholars who are advocating the importance of global education and awareness of equality issues, there are practical steps which the CSC is taking in the area of Access, Inclusion and Opportunity. The CSC's commitment made at and to the Global Disability Summit was to "enable an increase in scholarships for persons with disabilities and in subject areas related to the rights of persons with disabilities in the 2019 UK academic year and henceforth". We are on track to make real that commitment and more Scholars with disabilities than ever before are starting their studies in September 2019. Scholars are also researching issues affecting people with disabilities in low and middle income nations. I take this opportunity to welcome them and wish them success.

Richard Middleton

Chair

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Common Knowledge

Editorial team:

Hannah Openshaw

Kirsty Scott

Halema Khatun

James Goldsmith

Thomas Blunt

Brendan Harrison

Design:

Pilot Design Consultancy Ltd

Print:

TFW Printers Ltd

Common Knowledge is published twice a year by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK.

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF, United Kingdom

info@cscuk.org.uk **dfid.gov.uk/cscuk**

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60 YEARS IN NUMBERS

A timeline of the CSC

1959

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is established at the first Commonwealth education conference

1960

The first Commonwealth Scholars take up their PhD and Master's Scholarships

1969

Commonwealth Fellowships are introduced

1986

Commonwealth Shared Scholarships established, in partnership with UK universities

1997

The first academic advisers are recruited to review Scholarship applications

1998

Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships are introduced

2000

The first issue of the newsletter *Omnes* is circulated to Alumni and CSC stakeholders

2002

Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships are introduced

2002

Professional Fellowships are introduced

2005

CSC Professional Networks, bringing together alumni and current Scholars and Fellows working in specific fields, are launched

2006

The first issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News* magazine is published

2010

Commonwealth Scholar Directory launched

2012

The CSC alumni evaluation survey starts

2015

The first issue of *Common Knowledge* magazine is published, replacing *Commonwealth Scholarships News*

2015

Commonwealth Medical Fellowships are introduced

2017

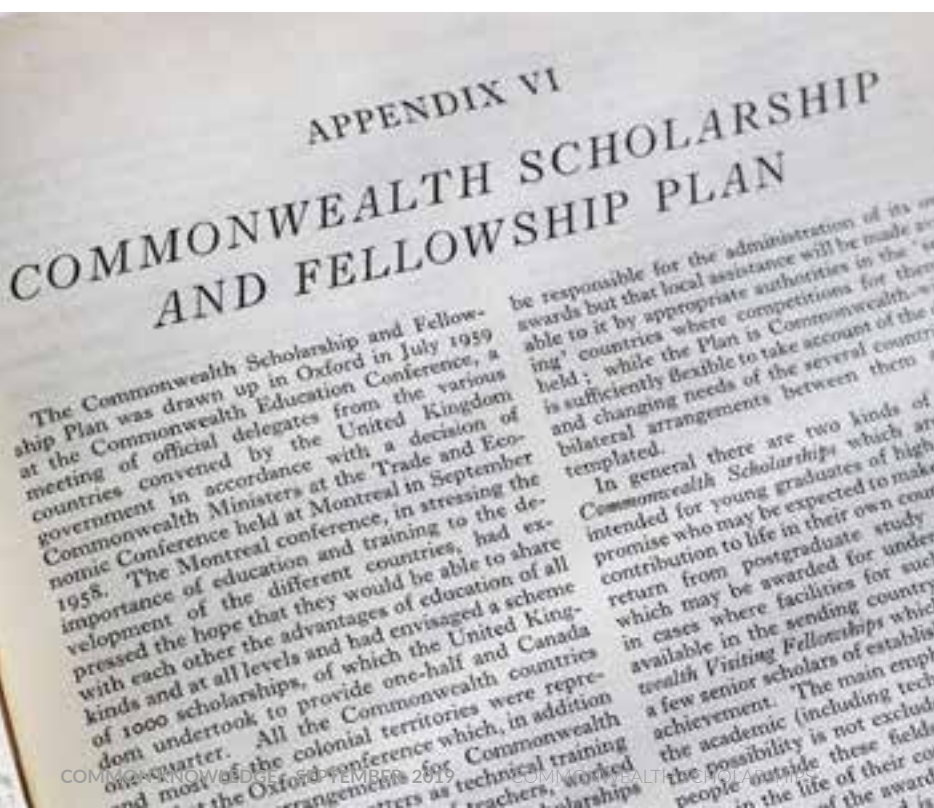
The first Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowships are awarded

2018

All Commonwealth Scholarships for low and middle income countries are offered under six themes

2019

60th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission





FIT FOR PURPOSE

Florence Mbithi discusses her bioengineering research to develop a self-adjusting lower limb prosthetic socket system



(Photo credit: Operation Blessing, Mar 2018.
<https://www.ob.org/a-new-prosthetic-for-amputee-victim-in-kenya/>)

The loss of a lower limb directly affects an individual's mobility, independence and quality of life, which indirectly generates social and economic effects on the wider community. Such societal impact is particularly significant in developing countries, where the majority of amputees are young and fall within the economically active ages of 10 to 45 years.

According to the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the majority of lower limb amputees (approximately 30 million people) in the world live in low and middle income countries. There is a limited-to-severe shortage of specialised facilities and expertise in these countries and, as a result, very few of the amputees (5% to 15% according to WHO) even get a prosthesis fitted.

In Kenya, trauma due to road-related accidents is among the leading

cause of lower limb amputations. An increase of incidences of peripheral vascular diseases related to complications of type 2 diabetes, such as diabetic foot, also accounts for a significant number of lower limb amputations in the country. In other low and middle income countries, major causes of amputations include trauma suffered during periods of civil war, for example, and prevalence of congenital defects.

A prosthesis is an artificial replacement for a lost body part and is intended to enable an individual to return, as closely as possible, to full

The design of more comfortable and truly adaptive lower limb prosthetic socket technology would greatly help improve the quality of life of amputees by increasing their degree of mobility and independence.



Florence Mbithi is a 2016 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya - she is studying for a PhD in Mechatronic Systems Engineering at the University of Southampton

function. For lower limb amputations, the socket is the point of contact between an amputee and their prosthesis. It also provides stability during movement, feedback for control over the prosthesis and direct transference of loading to the skeletal system of the individual.

The mechanical interaction and resultant contact loads at the interface between the prosthetic socket and the residuum skin, plus the deformation of the underlying soft tissues, directly affect residuum tissue health and greatly determines user comfort and prosthesis usage. Just like one would not continue to wear shoes that do not fit well and cause pain and blisters every time they tried to walk in them, a person with a lower limb amputation will not want to use a prosthesis that does not fit well, is uncomfortable and causes them pain. Hence, it is the first element of the artificial limb that informs the user's perception and level of comfort, making it the most important component of a prosthesis system.

DISCOMFORT AND PAIN

Prosthetic sockets are never definitive, and need regular modification by a prosthetist to accommodate the constant changes in volume and shape of the residual limb. Poorly-fitting sockets create daily discomfort and pain, and potentially limit prosthesis usage due to blood flow occlusion, skin breakdown and tissue injuries such as degenerative stump ulcers. In severe situations these could cause secondary complications, resulting in re-amputation or life-threatening conditions.

Ill-fitting sockets can also lead to development of additional musculoskeletal problems such as back and joint pain due to adverse compensatory gait adaptations, weight gain due to inactivity brought about by immobility, and possibly mental health issues such as depression.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN DEVELOPMENTS

There has been great development in the technology and design of various artificial body parts, from bionic hands and robotic ankles to advanced prosthetic feet which allow amputees to undertake competitive sport. Advances in neuroscience have revealed clues about how the brain processes sensations of touch, pressure, temperature, and pain. From prosthetic hands that can replicate 100 different sensations, to exoskeletons that will respond to changing terrain in real time (a potential benefit for patients with spinal-cord injuries), scientists have been exploring ways to make prosthetics feel and behave like the real thing.

Nonetheless, persons with lower limb amputation still too often experience discomfort due to the quality of the attachment of

the prosthesis system, however advanced, to the human body. In particular, the conventional functional socket is far stiffer than the soft tissues, and the stiffness does not vary spatially or locally depending on loading. The design of more comfortable and truly adaptive lower limb prosthetic socket technology would greatly help improve the quality of life of amputees by increasing their degree of mobility and independence.

I believe that a springboard towards collaborative research, education and training between engineering schools and health sector organisations and institutions is much needed in Kenya to help develop cost-effective and adaptive lower limb prostheses, in addition to other biomedical engineering systems. These organisations and institutions include University of Nairobi, Prosthetics and Orthotics centres in Kenya, and the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO).

A STEPPING STONE

My research at the University of Southampton aims to develop an active prosthetic socket framework. This framework intends to minimise the risk of residuum tissue injury, improve socket comfort and durability of fit, as well as manage limb volume fluctuation by control of the prosthetic interface load. A set of technical studies will be conducted to estimate the deformation state and predict the deep tissue injury risk of residuum soft tissues for lower limb prosthesis users. I will integrate this information with an actively manipulable residuum/socket interface, within a control system framework.

The anticipated development impact of my research includes better maintenance of residuum tissue health for lower limb prosthesis users by preventing the formation of ulcers and other stump tissue health complications and improving the overall prosthetic rehabilitation outcome.

It will also lead to an improvement in the quality of life for amputees and enable them to better contribute to the national workforce through increased productivity and socio-economic development. Additional benefits include the increased availability of more affordable prostheses, fitting processes and follow-up modifications, even with the limited specialised prosthetics and orthotics services and resources available in low and middle income countries. Moreover, this research provides a prime stepping stone for collaborative research with my colleagues at the engineering and medical schools of the University of Nairobi in Kenya, and advancement in education and training towards developing cost-effective and adaptive lower limb prostheses, in addition to other biomedical engineering systems. Other important potential partnerships and stakeholders include the University of Southampton, innovation and development communities in Kenya, as well as local prosthetics and orthotics clinics and centres.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



LIGHTING THE WAY WITH SOLAR VILLAGES

I M Dharmadasa (Dharme) discusses the advancements in electronic materials and solar energy conversion since the 1970s, and explains how his research is making a difference to communities in Sri Lanka

Ensuring access to clean and affordable energy is a key sustainable development goal related to the reduction of poverty in low income countries. Energy demand is rapidly rising due to an increasing world population, which is predicted to increase from approximately 7.6 billion to over 9 billion by the middle of this century.

The current energy supply from conventional fossil fuels is reducing due to the high cost of extraction and the detrimental impact on the environment. As such, a large gap between supply and demand of energy is developing, which must be filled by clean energy technologies and renewables. After the first oil crisis in the early 1970s, worldwide research on solar energy accelerated, and solar energy was placed at the top of the renewable energy list.

By investing in renewable energy sources, Sri Lanka could be powered completely by clean energy and reduce its energy costs. Approximately 80% of the population of Sri Lanka live in villages and their livelihood depends on agriculture. At present, roughly 10% have no access to electricity from the national grid. Sri Lanka is an island situated close to the equator with access to indigenous renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, bio-mass, and wave energy, and therefore has the potential to become a 'Renewable Energy Island' in the future: an island which generates electricity without burning imported and polluting fossil fuel. The Sri Lankan government is currently burdened with the cost of importing fossil fuels for electricity generation.

THE COST OF ENERGY

Solar energy conversion depends on advanced technologies, and the initial high cost of these has been a barrier to uptake in the past. In the early 1970s, it cost approximately USD100 to produce 1 watt of solar energy (~100 USDW-1). However, as a result of worldwide research and developments in solar cell technology, this figure has rapidly reduced to about 0.4 USDW-1 today. Solar energy has now also reached grid parity (which is achieved when a clean energy form costs the same or less than a conventional energy form from the grid) in several countries. Achieving grid parity is a key development in promoting alternative energy sources, making them affordable alternatives for policy makers and governments to invest in.

Despite this, awareness among the general public, policy makers, and government authorities continues to be an issue. Over the past 25 years, I have been working with Sri Lankan universities and the government to encourage investment in solar energy. Finally, in 2016 the government included solar energy projects in their national development plan and the 'Battle for Solar Energy' programme was initiated. The programme aims to install

1,000,000 solar rooftops across Sri Lanka by 2026 for clean energy production and to reduce CO2 emissions.

SOLAR COMMUNITIES

My most significant achievement in developing solar energy in Sri Lanka has been through the development of a solar village. In 1992, I initiated a Higher Education-link programme between Sri Lanka and Sheffield Hallam University, where I am now based, to collaborate on solar energy research between local universities in Sri Lanka and introduce solar energy applications in the country. The link focuses on establishing solar energy research in local universities, providing graduates with skills and knowledge in solar energy systems, and promoting clean energy technologies for social development and poverty reduction. Through this link, the South Asia Renewable Energy Programme (SAREP) was established alongside an international 'Solar Asia' conference series which aims to accelerate solar energy research and applications in the South Asia region.

While coordinating this work, I designed the Solar Village project, which piloted in 2008 in Kurunegala District. As part of the pilot

The main aim of the Solar Village Project is to empower energy-poor communities by developing and embedding clean energy technologies into everyday village life



I M Dharmadasa is a 1977 Commonwealth Scholar from Sri Lanka – he studied for a PhD in Solid State Electronics at Durham University

project, a cluster of three agricultural villages located in the dry zone were selected. These three villages are home to approximately 800 people with no access to modern facilities. The site was chosen due to the impact the lack of energy access was having on the community. Its school had been closed as without access to electricity or tap water, teachers had to drastically reduce teaching hours, and so attendance rates suffered. Moreover, during summer periods, villagers struggled to access clean drinking water. This resulted in a high number of cases of kidney disease.

REVITALISE AND EMPOWER

An infrastructure development project for water pumping using diesel engines had originally been proposed for these villages. I took the opportunity to replace the diesel pump with a solar powered pumping system. This change has allowed villagers to collect the revenue on their water bills (which was previously used to purchase imported diesel) and invest this in community development projects.

The second solar village is home to over 1,200 people, and its installation of a 6.0 kW solar roof (which is connected to the national grid) has provided major benefits to the community. In addition to access to their own clean source of energy, the community receive a monthly payment from the national electricity board for the total amount of energy fed into the grid. Guided by the project initiators, this revenue is managed by a Village Development Committee (VDC) to pump and

clean water. This clean drinking water now supplies seven surrounding villages.

Through the VDC, revenue has been used to fund a nursery, primary school, library, and awarding CARES (Centres for Application of Renewable Energy Sources) scholarships to children. With the help of the UK-based charity APSL-UK (Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK), of which I am one of the founding members, the VDC has awarded scholarships to seven children in the two solar villages. The scholarships will support them throughout their primary and secondary school education.

The main aim of the Solar Village Project is to empower energy-poor communities by developing and embedding clean energy technologies into everyday village life, combat climate change issues, and find solutions to social problems experienced by those living in the community, such as kidney disease through the consumption of polluted water due to the use of pesticides and artificial manure in paddy fields. Through the project, I have been able to explore and demonstrate the multiple applications and impacts of solar energy and the cost implications of using this cleaner and local energy source.

As part of the project, community members have become more sensitised to wider environmental issues and the importance of moving towards a climate-conscious way of living. Activities such as tree planting, brick making, organic agriculture, and bee-keeping are all now part of village life. With the support from a government ministry, 100,000

high quality mango plants and 500 bee-hive boxes were distributed in the pilot area. While improving the environment, these activities create additional income to participating families.

The social development achieved through the solar village project extends beyond the initial aims of contributions to scientific research on solar energy conversion.

THE NEXT STEPS

To further implement solar energy and develop solar villages across Sri Lanka, human capacity in this field must be developed in Sri Lanka. While the higher education link continues to provide opportunities for knowledge and skills development, I believe that more needs to be done beyond universities. Establishing solar panel manufacturing in Sri Lanka would be an important step in investing towards this cleaner energy, reducing import costs, and creating local jobs and expertise.

I am continuing my scientific research at the forefront of my field and working to see the delivery of further replicate solar village projects within Sri Lanka. This work is already progressing with two more large solar villages in the northern part of the country securing financial support. My aim is to work with established networks to achieve further projects and implement these in other developing countries. I hope to see wider uptake of solar villages across the world, with these eventually becoming standard practice in urban and rural areas to leave a peaceful and less polluted planet for future generations.



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Mustapha Dibbasey explores ways in which The Gambia can improve haematological cancer treatment across the country through enhanced laboratory practices



Mustapha Dibbasey is a 2018 Commonwealth Scholar from The Gambia – he is studying for an MSc in Biomedical Sciences at Kingston University

Haematological practice in Africa is rapidly evolving to meet the growing and challenging demands of clinical laboratory services and blood transfusion to the public. The decline in infectious diseases has led to a shift of paradigm and a focus onto non-communicable diseases, which include haematological cancers. Haematological cancers such as leukaemia and lymphomas have been discovered to be more widespread than initially thought. The poor outcome of a majority of cancers may be largely compounded by the late diagnosis and socio-economic barriers. Despite inadequate diagnostic tools and under-reporting of haematological cancers, the prevalence accounts for 10% of the overall cancer burden in sub-Saharan Africa.

In The Gambia, haematology practice is faced with countless challenges. The primary challenge that continues to threaten quality of healthcare delivery is the number of inadequately skilled biomedical scientists in hospital haematology laboratories, who lack the up-to-date knowledge needed to provide a reliable and appropriate diagnostic service. This has a far-reaching impact on the quality of healthcare delivery as well as in our quest to understand the true prevalent nature of certain haematology-related diseases, including cancers.

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

My study on this topic at Kingston University has consolidated my knowledge in the area of current diagnostic approaches and treatment strategies for a wide spectrum of haematology-related diseases, anaemia, haematological cancers and bleeding problems. The course has also provided me with an opportunity to expand my laboratory skill sets in the application of hi-tech diagnostic tools that are deep-rooted and core to haematological practice in healthcare delivery.

Under the guidance of my personal supervisor and collaboration with a network of well-renowned biomedical and research scientists in haematology, I am currently undertaking a sustained piece of independent research work on acute myeloid leukaemia (an aggressive form of cancer common in the elderly population), addressing its current global treatment challenges, and identifying diagnostic biomarkers for rapid diagnosis of the cancer.

CURRENT CHALLENGES IN HAEMATOLOGY PRACTICE IN THE GAMBIA

The diagnostic tools in the main haematology laboratory of The Gambia are in fact limited in their capacity to provide definitive diagnostic information on haematological cancers, and to establish the underlying causes of some anaemias and bleeding problems. For instance, even in the main haematology laboratory of The Gambia, peripheral blood film serves as a last line of diagnostic test for cancer, in sharp contrast to developed countries which utilise hi-tech diagnostic tools in addition to peripheral blood film to establish not only the diagnosis but also determine appropriate treatment strategy for patients. Therefore, while The Gambia continues to use less sensitive diagnostic tools with questionable reliability, the rampant nature of certain haematological conditions and cancers cannot be truly determined.

Furthermore, the lack of focus and interest in haematology practice and research is another challenge. In fact, haematology practice is mainly at the periphery of diagnostic delivery. Such a status quo must change through enlightenment and capacity building.

In addition, the haematology laboratories of most hospitals operate without quality management systems (QMS) in place. This compromises the standard and quality of healthcare service delivery to The Gambia. Unfortunately, the lack of implementation of QMS has resulted in numerous pieces of laboratory equipment becoming non-functional, weakening the capacity of service delivery to the public.

IMPROVE AND UPGRADE

Based on the National Development Plan (2018-2021) health policies, the government of The Gambia is committed to reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The burden will be reduced by ensuring that the country has adequate and well-qualified skilled professionals as well as strengthening laboratory services to provide required tests at all levels of the healthcare delivery system.

Upon my return to The Gambia, my primary objective is to enhance the diagnostic capacity of the main haematology laboratory via capacity building. I intend to achieve this through hands-on training in the laboratory and attending seminar presentations on various aspects of haematology practice to ensure adequate and well-qualified skilled professionals spearhead the practices across The Gambia. This would not only help to prevent late diagnosis or misdiagnosis of haematological cancers, usually associated with poor outcomes, but also highlight the indispensable role of haematology laboratories in healthcare delivery.

With the support of the government and the MRC (Medical Research Council) lab, I intend to introduce cost-effective diagnostic tests. These will be integral to haematology practice in order to upgrade the capacity of current diagnostic practice in the main haematology laboratory. Cost-effective tests would also help provide definitive diagnoses on various forms of haematological cancers and establish underlying causes of some forms of anaemias and bleeding problems prevalent in The Gambia. The improved diagnostic services in haematology laboratories will create a platform to generate accurate prevalence data which can be further analysed.

I believe that the data on the prevalence of haematological cancers should be analysed and shared with the government and other stakeholders on an annual basis. This can serve as a basis for the formulation of appropriate public health policies which would help improve the diagnostic delivery capacity and encourage implementation of QMS in haematology laboratories, at the same time allowing for increased and affordable availability of certain standard drugs for haematological cancers in The Gambia.

The private laboratories are important stakeholders in healthcare delivery and I aim to work with different stakeholders, including the National Public Health Laboratory department in The Gambia to improve the diagnostic delivery of private laboratories which offer basic haematology diagnostic services.

As is the case in some African countries, such as Malawi and Tanzania, the data generated might be used to justify research funding in certain areas of haematology-related diseases and cancers in The Gambia. Thus, I believe that my research and transferrable skills acquired at Kingston University will be sought-after and needed in The Gambia, and Africa at large.

The rampant nature of certain haematological conditions and cancers cannot be truly determined while The Gambia continues to use less sensitive diagnostic tools with questionable reliability



SHARING LESSONS IN HEART CARE

Deepa Sasikumar explains how information and expertise gathered during her Medical Fellowship, which involves training at a UK hospital, will help expand teaching and research within India's paediatric cardiology care institutes



Deepa Sasikumar is a 2019 Commonwealth Medical Fellow from India – she is training at Birmingham Children's Hospital for six months from May 2019.

There is a growing burden of operated congenital heart disease patients who need continued care and further interventions and/or surgeries

Paediatric cardiology care has grown tremendously over the past two decades in India, and there now are more than 25 dedicated paediatric cardiac centres in the country. Despite this immense achievement, we still have a long way to go to provide the necessary care to all babies born with congenital heart disease.

In India, approximately 150,000 children are born with congenital heart disease every year, and 20% of these are diagnosed with critical heart disease. Acquired heart diseases such as rheumatic heart disease and endocarditis (an infection of the inner lining of the heart chambers and heart valves) add to this burden.

The Indian Government has several schemes in place to provide free medical care to children with congenital heart disease, but these schemes are hampered by the number of insufficient paediatric cardiac services that are expected to cater to this huge disease burden. Moreover, these services are unequally distributed across India. Shockingly, some states do not even have a paediatric cardiac facility at all. Training more doctors from various parts of the country in paediatric cardiology is therefore sorely needed.

THE STATE OF KERALA

The state of Kerala, where I come from, is unique in that it is far ahead of the rest of the country in health care indices. The state has an infant mortality rate of 8 per 1000 live births and a life expectancy of 74 years. Efforts to bring down the infant mortality rate further have shifted focus towards prompt diagnosis and management of critical congenital heart disease in newborns. The state has two paediatric cardiologist training institutions, including Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (where I am based), which is a leading tertiary care centre for paediatric cardiac services in the government sector that has trainees from all over India. Moreover, the paediatric cardiac service is well-established with an excellent foetal diagnostic and cardiac intervention and surgical programme.

There is a growing burden of operated congenital heart disease patients who need continued care and further interventions and/or surgeries. Many of them need rehabilitation of the right ventricular outflow tract and branch pulmonary arteries. There is a lack of expertise in this area in my institute and so training in an effective, high-volume centre was deemed necessary.

KNOWLEDGE TO TAKE HOME

I have now been training at the Birmingham Children's Hospital since May 2019 and the experience is hugely rewarding. My duty roster has been planned with a view to incorporate me into the cathlab (an examination room in a hospital or clinic that has a diagnostic imaging equipment used to visualise the arteries and chambers of the heart) three days a week, with efforts made to ensure that I have the opportunity to assess the technical aspects, and outcome of cases of right ventricular outflow tract stenting.

I intend to take home not only the experience of conducting difficult cases, but also the organised way in which the cases are done, starting from the team brief. The paediatric cardiology team have demonstrated how closely they coordinate to achieve praiseworthy results. There are many valuable take-home points to be appreciated in the management of the wards, intensive care and the outpatient clinics at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

As Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute is a teaching and research institute, the training I receive in the UK will afford me an opportunity to impart what I have learned to residents and fellows from all over the country. It will also add motivation to the numerous research activities already in place at the institute. I have high hopes that my Medical Fellowship will have positive effects on the growth of paediatric cardiology in my institute as I have been training in one of the best paediatric cardiac centres in the UK.

CRACKING DOWN ON OLD MODELS IN SAINT LUCIA

*Following a family tradition of working in law enforcement, **Mario Chicot** joined the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF) in 2010, working in the Police Marine Unit. Here, Mario explains how his Commonwealth Scholarship will support the development of new approaches and legislation in his home country*



Mario Chicot is a 2018 Commonwealth Scholar from Saint Lucia – he is studying for a MSc in Advanced Policing at Liverpool John Moores University



Traditional methods of border patrol and policing are effective in combatting these threats, but further development of programs, resources, and legislation is needed to maintain the safety of citizens in Saint Lucia

Policing forms a critical part of the Government of Saint Lucia's strategy to disrupt, contain, and prosecute those responsible for crime in order to improve safety and security on the island. The geographic location of Saint Lucia makes it an ideal location for the movement and distribution of illegal narcotics and weapons, illegal immigration, and terrorism. Policing the island's borders 24 hours a day is an immense task for my unit, with responsibilities including subaquatic search and recovery, drug interception operations, and criminal investigations.

In 2018, the Police Marine Unit conducted 452 patrols, 23 search and rescue operations for lost or distressed vessels at sea, as well as the boarding of 367 vessels. Successful policing in previous years has involved the interception and seizure of 543 kilograms of cocaine and 3,772 kilograms of cannabis with a street value in the millions. Enforcement of the fisheries laws within territorial waters have also led to the seizure of 9,338lbs of conch (large snails whose shell has a high spire and a noticeable siphonal canal) and other products from illegal or indiscriminate fishing.

The tourism industry is the primary economic driver on the island, but crime in Saint Lucia continues to negatively impact this. It poses a threat to economic growth and employment generation as it discourages foreign investment and local economic activity. Traditional methods of border patrol and policing are effective in combatting these threats, but further development of programs, resources, and legislation is needed to maintain the safety of citizens in Saint Lucia.

CREATING A NEW MODEL

The Government of Saint Lucia is in the process of creating a new model for the Police Marine Unit to develop a Border Patrol Unit, which will be governed by a new legislative body. Through my MSc in Advanced Policing at Liverpool John Moores University (an institution with an established Centre for Advanced Policing Studies that develops knowledge in policing, crime prevention and allied security professions), I have focused my studies on gaining the skills needed to make a meaningful contribution to the development of my unit under the new model, and by extension the Saint Lucia Police Force.

My exposure to advanced policing models and senior leadership has been an integral part of my development as a police officer. This includes understanding policy and practices in policing as it moves to an evidence and technology-based approach to crime. One example of this is the use of body cameras worn by police officers. This integration of technology and law enforcement has resulted in stronger cases against criminals and increased rates of prosecution at the court level. There is also a correlation between the use of body-worn cameras by police officers and levels of professionalism. It is argued that the use of body cameras makes officers more conscious of their behaviour as the camera holds them accountable for their actions. The technology has also been used to exonerate police officers accused of wrongdoing by providing non-biased accounts of previous encounters. The incorporation of this technology into everyday policing in my unit may help to increase prosecutions and reduce illegal drug trafficking on the island.

NEWFOUND SKILLS AND BEST PRACTICES

During my Master's degree I have gained the skills required to conduct research into the causation of crimes as well as to recommend best practices when dealing with these situations. I have particularly focused upon applying these skills in the area of juvenile delinquency.

A common misconception of juvenile delinquency is that early intervention by police is effective in changing behaviour. This theory is now being challenged, as research suggests that introducing young persons to the criminal justice system at an early age can predestine them to a life of crime. This is an example of labelling theory in action (the theory of how the self-identity and behaviour of individuals may be determined or influenced by the terms used to describe or classify them). A better response and solution to juvenile delinquent behaviour would call for a multi-agency approach to dealing with juveniles, in order to reduce the likelihood of them going down a path that will inevitably make them products of the criminal justice system.

Following my Commonwealth Scholarship, I hope to grow into a leadership role within the RSLPF to help develop a strategic and integrated policing model that is reflective of public needs, incorporating advanced policing methods. This will promote peaceful and inclusive societies as well as paving the way for the provision of access to justice for all and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.



ALL THAT GLITTERS...

Epifânia Langa looks at the sugar and cashew industries in Mozambique, and explains the factors preventing the country from achieving its industrial potential



Epifânia Langa is a 2018 Commonwealth Scholar from Mozambique – she is studying for a PhD in Development and Economics at the University of Cambridge

Africa is home to the most pressing economic challenges in the world. While the rest of the developing world has seen a decline in the number of people living in poverty, the opposite can be said for Africa. In 2015, more than half of the world's poor lived in this continent, representing an increase of 135 million people living in poverty, compared to the 278 million calculated for 1990.

African economies continue to be heavily dependent on a few agricultural and mineral commodities, and the development of domestic industrial sectors through value addition and inter-sectoral linkages is limited. One of the consequences has been the cut in capacity to generate decent employment for the growing youth population across the continent. Young Africans have been forced into low productivity activities in the informal sector as a result.

For countries in Africa, improving conditions at the early stages of economic development requires nurturing the complex and dynamic relationship between agriculture and industry, with the aim of

increasing domestic capabilities in both sectors. Indeed, there are few examples of sustained industrial development that were not preceded or accompanied by an agricultural transformation.

THE REVIVAL

The revival of sugar and cashew processing industries in Mozambique showcase both the conditions and challenges of the interaction between agriculture and industry for economic and social development. At the turn of the 21st century, the sugar and cashew sectors had disappeared but they are now the second and third most important manufactured exports, after Mozal Aluminium alloys, the largest industrial employer in Mozambique's economy.

Since the start of the rehabilitation of the sugar industry in 1996, sugar production increased from 12,000 tons in 1998 to 450,000 tons in 2018, employing around 30,000 full-time workers in the rural areas (excluding part-workforce and outsourced services).

The revival of sugar and cashew processing industries in Mozambique showcase both the conditions and challenges of the interaction between agriculture and industry for economic and social development

This rehabilitation policy focused on attracting foreign capital with technical expertise in the sector through the provision of domestic tariff protection for sugar imports and helped create the National Sugar Institute, a dedicated state agency for the sector. State bureaucrats leading the National Sugar Institute had experience in the sugar sector as well as in political positions, providing them with critical knowledge of the sugar industry and capacity to mediate the interactions between the governments and investing firms. Their positions were kept for more than 14 years, ensuring long-term commitment to the consolidation of the industry. This was necessary because there was a need to overcome internal contestation driven by sugar importers and proponents of the liberalisation of sugar.

In contrast to the sugar industry, the cashew processing industry's rehabilitation policy was approved in 2002 and it detailed a more interventionist role for the state. It promoted the domestic processing of cashew nuts through the establishment of a tariff on the exports of raw cashew nuts. The aim of this was to finance the renovation of the national cashew orchard and the establishment of cashew processing firms in rural areas. All these activities are to be undertaken by the recently created National Cashew Institute.

A TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Around the same time, TechnoServe, a US-based non-profit organisation that provides technical support to promote agro-business, entered the cashew industry, promoting a technological change in cashew processing from the large-scale mechanised factories inherited from the colonial period to small-scale factories using manual peeling machines. By 2005, there were seven small-scale factories, most of them assisted by the same expert and TechnoServe. In addition, TechnoServe assisted firms in establishing linkages with buyers and quality control with funding from the United States Aid Agency (USAID).

Financial support also came from another local NGO specialising in financial and business services for agribusiness, the Bureau for the Support of Small-scale Industries (GAPI), which entered the cashew industry with an innovative approach to lending. Instead of demanding collateral as practiced by commercial banks, GAPI lent against future earnings based on recommendations from Clusa (a US-based NGO) and TechnoServe, who identified suitable processing firms through business plan assessments and technical support. Nevertheless, as the industry grew, so did the working capital requirements to buy raw cashew nuts, exceeding the capacities of GAPI. The response came from USAID and INCAJU (an institution, responsible for policy setting, definition of strategies and coordination of the cashew industry), which established guarantee funds with a local bank for established and new firms, respectively. These financing schemes were generally successful as the repayment rates for the USAID credit line were 95%, while for INCAJU the rates were 85%.

Today, Mozambique produces 150,000 tons of cashew nuts per harvest year, processes 60,000 tons (40% of its production), and is significantly

expanding the size and technological capabilities of its processing firms. This is an important achievement because no other country in Africa has achieved this level of processing. For instance, Ivory Coast is the largest producer of cashews in the world, achieving a massive increase from 5 tons in 1992 to 700,000 tons in 2015, but it only processes 35,000 tons (5% of its production). Moreover, compared to other cashew processing countries in Africa, Mozambique is the only country that has been able to create domestic firms that are globally competitive and does not rely solely on agri-business multinationals.

CONTINUED CHALLENGES

Despite these advantages, both the sugar and the cashew industries in Mozambique continue to face many challenges that impede further industrialisation. For example, the price of sugar in Mozambique continues to be the most expensive in the Southern Africa region, which constrain upstream linkages, particularly in the beverages and confectionery industries.

The single largest impediment for the expansion of cashew processing is the quality and quantity of raw cashew nuts. Access to short and long-term finance also continues to be unsatisfactory. Processors require cheap short-term credit to meet the working-capital requirements for buying raw cashew nuts as well as long-term financing to modernise processing methods, invest in marketing and branding for higher value markets, and diversify activities by processing cashew shells to produce the cashew nut shell liquid used in the automobile and chemical industries.

EXPANDING MY RESEARCH

I intend to combine evidence from firms in the sugar and cashew industries in Mozambique with a political economy approach, in order to understand the conditions for overcoming existing challenges and promote further industrialisation. I plan to expand and deepen this analysis by combining quantitative and qualitative research methods to undertake an empirical investigation of the sugar and cashew industries (along with cotton) during fieldwork in Mozambique. Quantitative methods will include a survey across firms in each sector, triangulated with company documents and reports, while qualitative methods include interviews with industrialists, government institutions, donors, workers and farmers associations, which will aim at deepening the understanding of the causal relations between factors and capturing historical trends, power dynamics and interests between the different actors.

My study has the potential to uncover systemic features hindering the development of industrial productive forces in Africa, where the largest opportunities lie for raising incomes, generating employment and improving working conditions. Moreover, it aims to highlight to firms, policymakers and other development actors the urgent need to reduce dependence on primary commodities which is contributing to Africa's cyclical economic crisis.

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

Mohammad Ali Mubarak Kisubi, who was appointed as the first Ethics Officer by the African Development Bank, discusses the key elements of ensuring ethics and integrity in governance

A large proportion of development work in Africa is dependent on borrowed resources, aid grants, and donor support. These funds are collected from citizens across the world and must be used efficiently and effectively for the purposes intended. As the premier financial institution in Africa, the African Development Bank (AfDB) is a key financial resource for development work across the continent.

Staff now feel compelled to act in good faith and report conflicts of interest



Mohammad Ali Mubarak Kisubi
is a 1984 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda - he studied for a MSc in Industrial Relations at the University of Bath

In 2009, the African Development Bank established an Ethics Office to oversee the use of funds and I was appointed as the first Ethics Officer. I was challenged with the task of operationalising the office, developing stringent ethics and integrity policies for all activities conducted, and communicating the Bank's zero-tolerance towards corruption and unethical behaviour. My role also included overseeing compliance with the Staff Code of Conduct, developing ethical guidelines to support different business processes and potential financial conflicts of interest, and implementing staff training programmes on ethics and corruption.

CREATING AN ETHICAL CULTURE

Providing ethical training and awareness programmes for staff is integral in raising awareness of good conduct and governance practices, organisational expectations of ethical behaviour, as well as empowering staff to enhance their own knowledge in this area.

I led the design and delivery of training materials to support staff working across a range of the AfDB's programmes and activities, including ethical budgeting and procurement and ethical approaches in the management of stakeholders. I also introduced the 'Ethics Corner' in the Bank News Bulletin, where staff can openly access information and advice on current ethical challenges and issues to develop their ongoing awareness and support them in the identification of abuses.

Based on the success of the programme, the AfDB invested in the development of an online 'Ethics Certification Program', further embedding the importance of this training in the culture of the organisation and confirming AfDB's investment in its staff and their powers of decision making in relation to ethical financial conduct. My work developing this training has played a leading role in the implementation of ethical training and awareness programmes across financial organisations, and I have been recruited to present on this by wider international organisations, including the World Bank, the Africa Union, and Islamic Development Bank.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Developing mechanisms to report financial misconduct and creating a speak-up culture is integral in ensuring the identification and prevention of unethical behaviour. There is huge stigma surrounding reporting such conduct, as many fear being seen by colleagues as a whistle-blower. To encourage and support staff in reporting misconduct and corruption at the AfDB, I implemented an anonymous process where staff can electronically file a 'Declaration of Interest', reporting any suspected misconduct with the assurance of non-retaliation and anonymity in all cases.

In 2018, I was tasked with revising the Bank's Code of Conduct and replacing it with a new Code of Ethics. While the former Code of Conduct focused on 'do's and don'ts', the new Code of Ethics provides information on ethical issues and challenges faced in banking, and offers advice on how to avoid and or mitigate these. Unlike the Code of Conduct, it is a living document containing regularly updated examples and situations and provides specific guidelines for areas more prone to ethical misconduct, such as procurement, thereby increasing its relevance to staff members.

Following the introduction of these measures, staff now feel compelled to act in good faith and report conflicts of interest, including personal interest, and there is increased staff recognition of the value of ethics in good corporate governance.

PROMOTING ANTI-CORRUPTION IN AFRICA

Following my work at the ADB, I have supported wider organisations in establishing ethical processes and procedures, including developing ethics offices in Africa, including the African Union, which covers all African countries, and the Electricidade de Mozambique. I was also recruited and tasked to assess the Government of Uganda's anti-corruption strategy and develop an implementation framework to communicate the strategy to a range of government stakeholders, including private sector consultants, civil servants, and media outlets. Among the key recommendations was the delivery of workshops on good governance and anti-corruption, tailored to each Ministry. The workshops are a key component in communicating the process to fight corruption, and encourage staff and stakeholders to initiate discussions on issues pertaining to corruption, and develop and agree action plans through a participatory approach to decision making.

The Ethics Office at the AfDB has been operational for nearly 10 years and its impact is felt across the organisation and implemented in all its operations across Africa. Through my work, the Bank's Ethics and Integrity Framework is now aligned with international practices, conventions, and regulations in this area. The identification, review, and mitigation of ethical risks, including corruption, can now easily be made, ensuring proper use and accountability for all resources and funds expended, improving organisational efficiency, and ensuring good corporate governance. The Bank is now regarded as having one of the best practices in providing lessons and experiences to others.

Following my work establishing the Ethics Office at AfDB, as an African, I feel proud of my contributions in promoting strong corporate governance for the good of my continent and people.

BALANCING

Bensolo Ken discusses how best to improve conservation in Papua New Guinea while supporting the growing population through industrial development projects



Key gaps exist in bridging conservation and natural resource management with sustainable development, especially around governance and decision-making processes

ACT

Papua New Guinea is one of the most biodiverse countries on earth, with its forests being the third-largest expanse after the Amazon and Congo Basin. It is classified as a developing economy and has one of the fastest rates of population growth, estimated at 3.1% per year. Its economic growth can be largely attributed to the wealth of natural resources for mining, including minerals, oil, and gas, with the extraction of these resources bound to increase in future to support the growing population. Forestry and agricultural activities also make a significant contribution to national development.

Despite Papua New Guinea's vast biodiversity and the importance of conservation to support wildlife and traditional rural ways of living, the enforcement of protection laws and effective monitoring of extractive activities on the ground is weak, due to poor governance and low financial and human capacity. My study provided the opportunity to explore how best to reconcile current natural resource development interests to support the growing economy and population with biodiversity conservation, in the context of Papua New Guinea and the Melanesian countries more broadly.

PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

During my studies, I completed fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, interviewing stakeholders with different interests in the natural resources available, including mining organisations, conservationists, and landowners. I concluded from my research that key gaps exist in bridging conservation and natural resource management with sustainable development, especially around governance and decision-making processes, including the enhancement of conservation capacity and increasing opportunities for sustainable conservation financing.

In my current work at The Biodiversity Consultancy, which is engaged by Papua New Guinea's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, we are actively engaging and consulting with Papua New Guinea's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum and with extractive industry representatives to pilot policy and technical design elements to promote sustainable financing to fund and effectively manage protected areas and biodiversity conservation in all mining activities.

One such project is the development of biodiversity offset options for the planned USD5 billion Wafi-Golpu mine, one of the largest gold mines in Papua New Guinea and the world. The mine could have a huge impact on the diversification of Papua New Guinea's economy through natural resource exports and job creation, however it must be developed alongside biodiversity conservation needs.

DEVELOPING A BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

I am involved in the development of the country's national biodiversity offsets policy framework, funded by the United Nations Development Programme's Global Environment Facility, to mitigate industrial impact on biodiversity or nature.

Biodiversity offsets are long-term conservation gains compensating for any unavoidable harm to biodiversity caused by development projects, with a goal of 'no net loss'

on biodiversity. The objective is to enable industrial development projects to achieve 'no net loss' on biodiversity by incentivising avoidance, minimisation, and restoration of impacts and by offsetting any residual unavoidable impacts through investment into Papua New Guinea's protected area network.

This policy proposal has the potential to improve biodiversity conservation and improve local community livelihoods while reducing business risks through applying effective mitigation measures to reduce overall adverse environmental impacts.

There are key challenges and opportunities in driving both conservation and sustainable development in Papua New Guinea. These include understanding and resolving the political process to determine whether the financial costs of 'no net loss' are prohibitive to certain sectors, working with government to develop a mutually acceptable Trust Fund mechanism to meet industry and civil society demands for a secure, transparent and independent governance of financial payments, and adapting the IUCN Green List Standard at the national level to serve as a global benchmark in assessing and strengthening effective protected area management in Papua New Guinea.

MEETING THE GLOBAL STANDARD

The 'Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas' is a global standard developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's foremost conservation authority, to assess the management effectiveness of protected and conserved areas globally. Protected areas are sites that are clearly demarcated and protected under law, while conserved areas are those that do not have formal legal protection but are managed to conserve sites, such as those used in local traditional practices.

I believe that adapting the global standard to the context of Papua New Guinea will ensure the effective management and governance of these sites and help map out different stakeholder interests, while promoting local efforts in conservation and protection. Adapting this standard will also provide better foundation for governing and protecting these sites by providing credibility and verification of conservation management through a third-party, the IUCN.

Going forward, I intend to engage more closely with industry partners, key government agencies, civil society organisations, research institutions and academia to support and help strengthen conservation and sustainable development for Papua New Guinea in the coming years.



Bensolo Ken is a 2017 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Papua New Guinea - he studied for an MPhil in Conservation Leadership at the University of Cambridge

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CSC: RESEARCH IMPACT EVENT

The largest of the anniversary activities so far in 2019 has been the Research Impact Event, which was hosted by the Royal Society in London on 16 May.

15 Commonwealth Scholars were selected to present posters and related artefacts at the event to demonstrate their current research and its intended development impact to CSC stakeholders, including Commonwealth High Commissioners, senior academics, and Parliamentarians.

The event opened with introductory remarks by Richard Middleton, the Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. Speakers included Caroline Read, Director of International Relations at the Department for International Development, Professor Richard Catlow, Foreign Secretary and Vice-President of the Royal Society, and Mark Ruglys, Head of Engagement for Global Science and Innovation at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The speeches were followed by the presentation of the Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize by Madeleine Markey, Managing Editor at Taylor & Francis. The Best Journal Article Prize is awarded to the most outstanding article published in a recognised peer review journal of high standing and aims to recognise the work of doctoral Commonwealth Scholars in disseminating their research in the interests of knowledge advancement and development impact. As part of this year's anniversary, two prizes were awarded, one to a current Scholar and one to an alumnus.

Ruksana Rimi's article on '*Risks of pre-monsoon extreme rainfall events of Bangladesh: is anthropogenic climate change playing a role?*' and Fred Ikanda's article '*Somali refugees in Kenya and social resilience: resettlement imaginings and the longing for Minnesota*' were the two articles selected.

Following the presentation of the prize, attendees had the opportunity to meet with exhibiting Commonwealth Scholars and discuss their research in further detail.

The final part of the evening saw two Commonwealth Scholars and two alumni present the impact of their doctoral research. We were pleased to be able to have with us to present the Best Journal Article Prize one of our first Commonwealth Scholars, Dame Bridget Ogilvie (1960 Scholar from Australia, PhD Immunology of Parasites, University of Cambridge), former Director of the Wellcome Trust. Dame Bridget highlighted the impact of her Commonwealth Scholarship in providing her the opportunity to further her education in a predominantly male field and how this had supported her subsequent career.



Pictured here are this year's winners of the Taylor & Francis Best Journal Article Prize: Ruksana Rimi (2013 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Climate Change, University of Oxford) and Fred Ikanda (2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya, PhD Social Anthropology University of Cambridge).

Presentations were delivered by this year's winners of the Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize, Ruksana Rimi and Fred Ikanda, and Commonwealth Alumni Mavis Asare (2010 Scholar from Ghana, PhD Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, Loughborough University) and Chigozie Utazi (2010 Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Statistics, Lancaster University and the University of Manchester).

MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED SHOWCASE THE DIVERSITY OF THE RESEARCH BEING FUNDED BY THE CSC, WHICH IS HAVING SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT ON LIVES THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH AND BEYOND.

"The event presented great ideas, content, and opportunities to network with researchers, academics, and non-academics from different disciplines. It was a delight to discuss my research on life cycle assessment of renewable energy business models and identify opportunities for research engagement and impact."

Velma Mukoro, 2018 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya, studying for a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Manchester



"I had the opportunity to interact with key academic professors from amongst the top UK universities during the exhibition. I was asked thought provoking questions about my research and the intended impact to Botswana. It was an exciting yet challenging experience to explain my research project. I also had the opportunity to network with other academic professors who were interested in working with me in the future. This was a well-organised event which provided a platform for networking and sharing amongst scholars and academics."

Badziili Nthubu, 2017 Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, studying for a PhD in Design Methods at Lancaster University

EXAMPLES OF EXHIBITIONS AT THE RESEARCH IMPACT EVENT

The impact of operating environments on battery energy storage for the sustainability of solar photovoltaic electricity generation, to enhance energy access in Sub-Saharan Africa: A case study of Malawi



Chrispin Gogoda Mbewe is a 2017 Commonwealth Scholar from Malawi – he is studying for a PhD in Renewable Energy at Loughborough University.

Renewable energy is increasingly becoming an acceptable solution to the problem of energy access for rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa through off-grid systems. Owing to the intermittent nature associated with renewable power generation, battery energy storage closes the mismatch between power generation and demand.

Batteries are generally defined by their performance under standard test conditions. Performance outside the factory is dependent on operating environments whose impact on battery life can be overwhelming. This study aims to develop a novel energy storage delivery model that takes account of the operating environments in the implementation of renewable energy projects in Malawi.

The research involves a field visit to Malawi to profile the country's energy storage landscape, the real-life performance monitoring of a practical installation, and lab characterisation of specific battery chemistries under different operating conditions.

Anticipated development impact

The health sector will be supplied with reliable electricity for running fridges which keep vaccines, providing light to help mothers when delivering during the night. In the education sector, the research will help students to study at night in order to enhance their knowledge and improve their exam preparation. The provision of electricity to small businesses will help increase the income of people in the target communities.

Most significantly is the provision of modern cooking services through battery-based cooking units that, apart from reducing drudgery on women and children when collecting firewood, will significantly reduce deaths arising from cooking using unclean traditional biomass-based technologies.

Leadership and the impact of nutrition interventions on the food security of women with HIV/AIDS in Homa Bay County, Kenya



Rose Shikuri Munyendo Okilo is a 2016 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya – she is studying for a PhD in Nutrition and Dietetics / Public Health at King's College London.

Kenya is one of the four high-burden HIV/AIDS countries in Africa.

Women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infections with a prevalence of 7% as compared to Kenyan men with a prevalence of 4.7%. Homa Bay County bears the largest burden of HIV/AIDS in the country with an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 26% compared to the national prevalence of 6%. The county also has high incidences of malnutrition and poverty.

82% of households do not have enough food to meet their household needs throughout the year. This is worse in HIV/AIDS households, yet food is often identified as the most important and critical need by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Little has been done to initiate sustainable programmes to improve food security among HIV-infected individuals.

In 2017/2018 the Homa Bay County health budget comprised 30% of its total budget. Nutrition received 0.03% of the health budget, yet nutrition activities are many and varied.

The main aim of the research is to find out why, despite nutrition-based interventions being given to PLWHA women, they continue to be malnourished. What is the role of leaders in enhancing the food security of women with HIV?

Anticipated development impact

The anticipated development impact of my research is to reduce malnutrition amongst PLWHA, lead to better health and nutritional statuses for women and families, encourage policy changes and ultimately boost economic growth.

For more examples of the exhibitions at the Research Impact Event, please see the 60th anniversary section on our website: <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk>

10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES13
CLIMATE
ACTION15
LIFE
ON LAND

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

Rokeya Begum Shafali is Executive Director of AID-COMILLA, an NGO which advocates for the inclusion of older people in local government disaster management committees and planning. In this article, she discusses the importance of including all community members in disaster management and the specific challenges faced by older people.



Rokeya Begum Shafali is a 2008 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Bangladesh – she was hosted by the Bangladesh Association.



An older resident involved in an income-generating activity as advocated by the Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC)



An example of an assistive device designed to increase the independence and reduce the pain experienced by older residents

THE THREAT

Bangladesh is a riverine country, predominantly made up of deltas from the 200-plus rivers which flow through it. The river systems provide a source of livelihood for hundreds of millions of people who have built their homes along the rivers and coastal areas, however, this form of livelihood also brings a range of challenges. Communities are affected by river bank erosion and flooding on an annual basis, which are major concerns for the residents of floodplains, river banks, and chars (islands on the rivers formed from soil deposits).

Field level data for Bangladesh has revealed that 80% of the population is exposed to floods and cyclones. River erosion, water logging, landslides, and fires are prevalent secondary hazards. These hazards are a huge threat to life and cause significant damages and losses. In the flood-prone areas of Bangladesh, 60% to 80% of the population are exposed to floods directly, where their homesteads and cultivable land are easily inundated during monsoons and flash flood situations. A further 20% to 30% of the population are directly exposed to river erosion. During prolonged floods, households face a shortage of food, medicine, and other necessities. Northern parts of Bangladesh are some of the most vulnerable areas.

Since 1998, AID-COMILLA has been working with vulnerable communities in Kurigram District in northern Bangladesh, providing health and nutrition support, alternative livelihood options, and improving housing infrastructure against flooding and further hazards. 70% of the population in this district live below the poverty line. Several rivers flow through this district, including major rivers Brahmaputra, Dharla, and Tista. River flooding, also known as

monsoon flooding, occurs between June and September and is the most common type of flooding in the district, causing severe river bank erosion.

NEW PERSPECTIVE AND APPROACH

During my time as Executive Director, I was awarded a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship with the Bangladesh Association. It was in this period that I acquired a new perspective and approach to some of the activities conducted by AID-COMILLA. I realised that natural disasters have a disproportionate impact on older people, yet they are often overlooked as participants for disaster relief planning and strategies.

Following disasters, older people often also experience greater exclusion and challenges during the recovery period. Health problems, including chronic diseases and disabilities, increase the risk of injury and death during emergencies. A lack of access to information and basic social services, along with a lack of knowledge on disaster preparedness and adaptive measures, comprise a few of the underlying causes of their vulnerability.

The specific needs of older people are often excluded and overlooked by humanitarian actors, and their capacity to contribute as a resource in disaster risk and reduction (DRR) programs and activities is frequently ignored. Older people are yet to be included in local and district level disaster management committees. Furthermore, there is a lack of coordination in the planning and allocation of resources, particularly among ministries and departments, to address the issues of older people. This results in



Natural disasters have a disproportionate impact on older people, yet they are often overlooked

poor recovery and rehabilitation services for older people following disasters.

Older people have a lifetime of experience and knowledge of local hazards and environmental changes which can be used in disaster management planning and risk reduction. They can also provide a history of how their community has adapted to climate variability and natural hazards over time and which of (as well as how) these adaptations have been successful.

PREPARE, ENCOURAGE AND CONTRIBUTE

Due to the unpredictability of some natural disasters, AID-COMILLA faces several challenges in its work. The empowerment and inclusion of older people and older people with disabilities in disaster management and disaster risk reduction interventions is still a big challenge. Although the government has developed several social safety net programmes, they are not disaster risk-focused, thus they do not address older people.

Following my Commonwealth Fellowship, AID-COMILLA has advocated for the inclusion of older people in local government disaster management committees. We worked with HelpAge International on 'Building preparedness of vulnerable communities through inclusive disaster risk reduction initiatives'. The goal was to contribute to preparing communities to better withstand recurring natural disasters and focus on basic disaster preparedness techniques, as well as encouraging community structures and livelihoods which contribute to building disaster-ready communities.

AID-COMILLA and HelpAge International developed 24 age-inclusive Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC) with strong connections to the respective Union & Upazila Disaster Management Committees (UDMC/UzDMC). As a result, the CDMCs have recognised the vulnerabilities and the capacities of older people, people with disabilities, and women in the development of inclusive disaster management committees and activities. This has led to local government lending their support in the implementation of new and inclusive activities. Thus, CDMCs have been able to advocate with local government to include vulnerable and older people in social safety net programmes.

CDMCs are now involving older people in different income-generating activities to help restore their livelihoods, support their family, and stock for emergencies. The project has also provided assistive devices to some older people to increase their independence, reduce pain, and increase their confidence and self-esteem. Rather than focusing on providing community response material following a disaster, this proactive approach has enabled communities to consistently support old and vulnerable members and help to reduce their vulnerability when disasters occur.

Through my work, older people have felt empowered to share knowledge and experience and to contribute to their communities in ways that have previously been overlooked. I hope that more communities will see the success of AID-COMILLA in including all community members in disaster management committees and follow in its footsteps to a greater inclusion of knowledge.



TURNING UP THE HEAT ON PESTS

Ramakrishnan Vasudeva explores processes to help eliminate several devastating pest infestations, and create a better future for the agricultural industry



Ramakrishnan Vasudeva is a 2017 Commonwealth Rutherford Fellow – he is researching Climate Change, Adaptation and Pest Management at the University of East Anglia.

By increasing temperatures during grain storage, we can eliminate a number of devastating pest infestations.

The impacts of global climate change (such as persistent and recurring heatwaves) can have a myriad of complex effects on diverse ecosystems. All climate change prediction models suggest that much of our planet will become warmer within this century by 2°C to 5°C on average. Major shifts in biodiversity patterns are likely to result, including rapid changes in pest-predator dynamics, leading to major ecological catastrophes. Such an impact is estimated to affect all global economies and will be particularly felt within low and middle income economies.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEST ABUNDANCE

Temperature-driven climate change will affect various insect species differently. Pollination-friendly insect species could suffer more drastically with plummeting numbers (as currently indicated across many studies) due to their sensitivity to rising temperatures. However, major insect pests might be able to thrive and multiply as the warming climate may create suitable conditions for their abundance.

Rising temperatures are also likely to reduce plant productivity, causing fitness problems in pests' natural enemies and encouraging new pests. Insect pests could destroy a fifth of the global food produced, both in fields and during post-harvest storage. There is considerable global demand for cheaper, sustainable and effective non-chemical techniques to protect crops from insect pests in order to increase food production yields to serve a growing population, which is expected to reach nine billion people by 2050.

Some pest insects have evolved resistance mechanisms and processes to cope with unfavourable conditions. Much of biodiversity suffers when exposed to acute thermal exposures (such as heatwaves) that are becoming highly frequent and intense, which might explain why the majority of useful insects (such as pollinators) and some male species experience fitness declines in the face of global climate change.

A GLOBAL NUISANCE

My primary research uses an inter-disciplinary lab-based approach with knowledge of evolutionary biology, organismal biology and applied science methodologies to tackle this multi-faceted problem. I am currently interested in the fundamental reproductive responses of insects to lab-based climate change scenarios.

I am working with a great network of researchers at Norwich Research Park to narrow the gaps in our understanding of pest resilience to increasing temperatures, general sensitivity to experimental heatwaves, and adaptation to environmental offences. We are also

furthering our evolutionary understanding of chemical ecology for biological communication and tapping into technological developments in genomics to unravel the genetics of thermal adaptation.

Tribolium castaneum is a red flour beetle and major pest that is closely associated with human settlements and with agricultural practices, infesting stored flour, rice, grains and pulses. It is also an exceptionally good model organism for experimental studies to understand in general how pests adapt to changing conditions. Its generation-time is relatively quick (approximately 28 days from egg to adult), and its genome sequence is known. A number of mutant strains are available for comparative experimental studies. It is also resilient to growing and developing under a broad range of environmental conditions, providing an excellent resource to study thermal adaptation, such as the ability to cope with temperature. *Tribolium castaneum* is an example of a pest which can reproduce rapidly under slightly warmer conditions.

CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Insects are ideal to study the phenomenon of changes to sperm as a result of thermal stress, as their conditions can be easily altered during development and the knock-on effects on fertility and fitness can be easily measured. This study is currently under completion and will be published in a high-impact journal.

In a recent study published in *Nature Communications*, we showed that a male's reproductive fitness declines by as much as 50% when under thermal stress and that such declines are carried over to the next generation through epigenetic signalling processes, that involve genetic control by factors other than an individual's DNA sequence, affecting offspring phenotype. These findings highlight the sensitivity of a pest species and are crucial in our understanding of tackling infestations. By increasing temperatures to an optimal level during grain storage, we can eliminate a number of devastating pest infestations. Although this is still in its infancy, future work could optimise simulated temperature increases as an effective tool to tackle the global problem of pests in agriculture. This would involve collaborations at various levels with national and international partners. The controlled use of temperature increases is a preferable pest-control method, as using harmful chemicals to eliminate pests can have damaging health effects to the consumer and to the ecosystem.

It is a complex task to achieve the balance between protecting biodiversity and feeding the planet. One cannot do one without the other, and we must take evolutionary processes into consideration to embrace a sustainable planet for all life.

REPRESENTING THE MINORITY

Okechukwu Effoduh is a human rights lawyer and serves as the Assistant Director of the Council on African Security and Development, a think tank working on issues around development and security in Africa. He is the founder of the Lawyers League for Minorities and is currently developing a digital platform for human rights law, Law2Go. In this article, Okechukwu shares his passion for human rights advocacy and the importance of human rights education.



Okechukwu Emmanuel Effoduh is a 2013 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Nigeria – he studied for a MSt in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford



I have been a human rights activist since I was 19 years old. I started with media advocacy in my first year of university, anchoring a community radio program that was broadcast across 150 radio stations in Nigeria. Millions of people tuned in, and every week I would travel to different states to talk about human rights issues, ranging from healthcare to social security, to access to water and education, as well as civil and political rights issues, including freedom of movement and arbitrary law.

After I completed my undergraduate degree, I worked at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the top legal institution for research in law in Nigeria. Through the Institute, I worked with others to develop courses in law, advise the government and other institutions on areas for legal reform, and research new and emerging areas in the study of law. But most importantly, I had the opportunity to establish a pro bono law clinic and provide legal support to people who could not afford legal representation.

REPRESENTATION FOR ALL

In 2012, with a small group of friends, I founded an NGO called Lawyers League for Minorities. We worked on cases where we helped seek bail for people who had been arrested based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. When it came to vulnerable groups or individuals, we would stand on their behalf.

The Lawyers League for Minorities now has 24 lawyers who provide pro-bono legal support to people who have suffered discrimination or abuse based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, economic status, or vulnerability. I extended this work to a campaign called #FreeAndEqualNaija, a campaign that informed people about their right to be free and equal. Through this, participants were able to engage in human

rights discourse using the media, and some challenged the government on human rights issues through articles and interviews. The campaign specifically targets taboo subjects including rights of trans and intersex individuals within Nigerian law.

We have supported over 40 cases, and I have provided advice and context to both local and international NGOs working on human rights issues in Nigeria to support their strategies.

WHERE TECHNOLOGY MEETS LAW

Ensuring that people understand and can enjoy their basic fundamental rights is the key focus of my work. In 2017, I participated as a Fellow at the Library Innovation Lab at Harvard Law School, where I explored how I could bridge technology and access to human rights services in Nigeria, thus I created the website 'Law2Go'. For the first time, through this platform, I provided online information about the Nigerian Constitution and its provision on human rights. To promote the understanding of these legal provisions, I translated part of the Nigerian Constitution from complex legalese to simple, understandable formats. I have also translated it to several indigenous languages in Nigeria, such as Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, and even Pidgin. With the help of friends fluent in these languages, I was able to further translate the laws from text to audio format. The audio recordings are now being used by visually impaired pupils studying at the School for the Blind in Abuja to learn about the Constitution and human rights.

At present, I am working on developing a mobile app as a further extension to the website. In Nigeria, there are over 26.6 million smartphones in the country and by the end of 2019 this figure is predicted to be over 31 million. I believe with the spread of the internet and the proliferation of smartphone

technologies, lawyers should use these as a platform to help and assist people. We cannot stand in the street like town criers, ringing bells to mobilise knowledge, but we can use technology to pass our message across, and promote justice.

SECURING HUMAN RIGHTS

There is an intersection between security and international human rights law. When there is a gap in the enforcement of security in any state or any apparatus, the results, in effect, are human rights abuses.

As Assistant Director at the Council on African Security and Development, I worked with the Council's Director to organise a National Security Summit in Nigeria for the first time. We brought together over 25 global security experts, including military representatives, ambassadors, judges, and civil society leaders to Nigeria. The Summit provided a platform to discuss strategies to curb the growing insecurities in Nigeria and the activities of the militant group Boko Haram. We advised the government on potential policies to take forward.

One policy which has been implemented as part of tackling insurgencies is the training of military and police personnel on human rights law and how they can be applied even in critical times. This is to ensure they understand the rights of insurgents, and how their actions as military can result in human rights violations and increase tensions.

There are many barriers to how people understand the law, which go beyond disinterest and the undervaluing of human rights. As a lawyer, I have the knowledge and ability to breakdown these barriers and ensure people understand their rights, and I hope to continue this valuable work.

4

QUALITY
EDUCATION

10

REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITIES

Vijitha Rajan calls for a deeper study into the educational inequalities faced by those who migrate from challenging rural environments to the city of Bangalore. In this article, Vijitha questions the contemporary view that migrant children lack agency and highlights the impact this view may be having on children's education in the city

Development in contemporary times is largely recognised not only as a means to economic growth but also as a means towards equitable access to resources, social inclusion and meaningful political participation. Access to quality education for all is integral to development. While efforts to universalise education are at their peak, certain social groups such as migrants are still outside the purview of schooling and the grand narratives of development. Short term and seasonal migrants who move due to agricultural distress, drought and livelihood crises are entangled in multiple levels of inequality and exclusion, both in rural and urban areas. In the case of rural-urban distress migration in an Indian context, the least educated and poorest sections of the society migrate, and they lack access to education in the destination cities. Neither do they have access to quality education in source villages as they belong to the lowest socio-economic categories of society. My doctoral study aims to understand migrant children's experiences with education in the city of Bangalore and locate them in the larger context of distress internal migration and development in India.

Migrant communities in the city predominantly live in squatter settlements and labour camps, hidden away from mainstream city spaces so that even physical access to school is a huge challenge for migrant children. Along with issues of physical access, children's social access to school spaces is hindered by barriers such as their socio-economic status, language and informal conditions of labour. With migrant children's lives being mired in such complex lived realities, state and civil society initiatives fail to provide meaningful educational initiatives for migrant children. The current policy discourse understands children as victims of their circumstances and aims to 'save' their childhoods. Although the shift towards 'socially constructed childhood(s)' has happened in the research domain, the policy discourse still frames children as 'passive victims' and 'lacking

agency'. My objective therefore was not only to understand the complex contexts of migrant children's educational exclusion but also to bring children's voices and experiences to the forefront, in their own right. The fieldwork sites for my doctoral research were primarily three NGO learning centres for migrant children in East Bangalore.

THE LIVED REALITIES

While 'mobility' is cited in policy discourse almost as a 'blanket' reason as to why migrant children are 'hard to reach' and 'out of school', insights from field data show complex interfaces between migration and educational exclusion of migrant children in the city. Firstly, mobility alone cannot explain the entirety of educational exclusion of migrant children in the city. Instead, the issues of urban marginality, isolation and precarity that migration entails challenges the standalone source- and destination-based educational interventions designed by state and non-state actors. Secondly, there is an inherent contradiction between 'mobile-childhoods' and 'immobile-schools'. Our education system fails to accommodate the lived realities of migrant children at a fundamental level. This is the reason why school attendance of migrant children is poor, however much access they have to state or NGO schools in the city.

The following narrative from my fieldwork reveals the complexity of migrant children's educational access in the city. In September 2017, during my fieldwork in one of the Bangalore NGO schools for migrant children, a large group of enrolled children dropped out of the school over a 'ghost' rumour. The 'ghost' rumour originated in the context of some children coming down with a severe 'fever' after they started attending the NGO school. The connection that migrant families and children made between 'fever', 'ghost' and the 'school' resulted in a mass pupil drop-out and the NGO struggled to bring the children back to school. During this time, one of the children died due to this fever and it exacerbated

Our education system fails to accommodate the lived realities of migrant children at a fundamental level



Vijitha Rajan is a 2018 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from India - she is undertaking her Split-site award at the University of Leeds as part of her PhD at the University of Delhi.

parents' belief about the ghost in the school. In this case, cultural beliefs of 'rural' migrant communities determined children's access to schooling. The migrants' marginal locations in the city (which increase the risk for unhygienic living conditions), their inability to access quality healthcare, and doubt over the long-term relevance of education for their lives all exacerbated the implications that the 'ghost' rumour had for migrant children's educational access.

PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE

NGOs play a major role in the educational inclusion of migrant children in the city, as the state schooling system clearly seems to have failed in accommodating the lived realities of migrant children. One of my research questions seeks to explore the nature of learning experiences that the three selected NGOs sites provide for migrant children. Are NGO schools for migrant children miniature models of the mainstream 'place-based' schooling system - that is, fundamentally exclusionary? Or do NGOs provide any truly alternative educational experiences for migrant children? Educational interventions by NGOs for migrant children in the city need to be situated in the context of the evolution of NGOs in the neoliberal times as development partners with the state and as a significant provider of education for children from marginalised communities. While some state officials in Bangalore openly invited NGOs to be part of the mission of placing non-attending children into a mainstream schooling system, field data from three NGO settings suggest nature and culture of NGO educational spaces differ significantly within the city.

The findings of the study show that NGO spaces are non-homogeneous and accommodate various philosophies and organisational cultures in ways that differently shapes the educational experiences of migrant children. While one of the NGOs attempted to create progressive and inclusive

learning space for migrant children, the other two NGOs reinforced traditional ideals of schooling based on rote learning, punishment and other exclusionary practices in their everyday workings.

Exploring the nature of NGOs' interventions, the scale of their operation, and the possibilities of sustainability and systemic educational change is necessary to improve the educational inclusion of children from marginalised communities. It is not only a macro-level understanding of the evolution of state-NGO partnerships that is important to be analysed in this regard, but also the micro-level processes and practices that shape state and non-state educational spaces for children from marginalised communities.

PATHWAYS FOR INCLUSION

What is the future of education for marginalised communities such as migrant children? What do slogans such as 'education for all' and 'leave no one behind' mean for migrant children whose presence and experiences have not even been recorded in mainstream policy and academic discourses? These questions are central to the enquiry of my study and to answer these, we need to move beyond the dichotomies of 'inclusion' and 'exclusion' and engage with the deeper forms of inequalities in which migrant lives are situated. Theoretical and empirical meanings of migrant children's encounters with the city need to be studied in ways that understand the complex interaction between structural inequalities and children's agential engagement. Truly alternative 'state' initiatives within frameworks equity and social justice, responding to migrant children's lived realities and marginalisation need to be framed in order to address the complex constitution of their educational inclusion. My research will advance existing knowledge on migrant children's experiences and thereby inform policy and practice to form meaningful educational initiatives for migrant children.



CURRENT COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION



Dushanth Joshua Seevaratnam is a 2016 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada - he is studying for a PhD in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cambridge



Saskia Nowicki is a 2017 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada - she is studying for a DPhil in Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford



Peter John Lambert is a 2018 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia - he is studying for a PhD in Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science

Over the past 60 years, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has been funded by a variety of Government departments; while the majority of funding currently comes from the Department for International Development, the CSC also receives funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Education (DfE).

Featured here are a selection of our Commonwealth Scholars whose recent studies have been funded by the Department for Education in conjunction with UK universities. The aim of these PhD Scholarships for applicants from high-income countries is to support world class research and help sustain international recognition of the UK higher education system for the benefit of wider society.

DUSHANTH JOSHUA SEEVARATNAM

Developing a protein-based biosensor system

My research topic involves the development of cheap and rapid diagnostics, particularly for the detection of leptospirosis and malaria.

Often the cost of the special proteins used for these procedures is very expensive, making these protocols not feasible for daily use in a resource-limited setting. For this reason, we have genetically engineered these proteins to allow for local production in these settings while maintaining the activity and longevity of the products.

As a result of my research, resource-limited countries will be able to produce desirable proteins at a fraction of the cost, and use said proteins for a variety of applications, including detection of locally occurring infectious diseases. I have already been able to use this research to run a protein workshop at the University of Ghana.

SASKIA NOWICKI

The Risk Assessment Imperative for 'Safe' Drinking Water: traversing the technology-policy-management nexus towards clean water supplies

The aim of my research is to determine if technical drinking water quality information generated within a pluralist institutional arrangement - with involvement from government, private sector, and communities - can increase the health-protectiveness of rural water management in Sub-Saharan Africa. My work is supporting the development of a water quality monitoring programme in rural Kitui County, Kenya and, through engagement with the County government, UNICEF and other stakeholders, is feeding into water safety planning initiatives to improve the microbial and chemical quality of drinking water. At a larger scale, the findings of my research may help inform efforts to increase water quality monitoring in other rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

PETER JOHN LAMBERT

Mapping the causes and consequences of innovation and competition

My research seeks to combine a variety of existing data sets, and augment this with new innovative data (e.g. using textual analysis of company disclosures and patent data) to provide a rich and disaggregated picture of economic activity. A number of uses for such data emerge: what are the causes and consequences of competition, innovation, and regulation?

The benefits of my research include a better understanding of important economic structures such as markets, institutions and regulation/policy, the ability to advise policy makers on best practice for future prosperity through innovation, and the ability to identify key drags on prosperity, with possible implications for least-developed countries.



Caitlyn McGeer is a 2017 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada – she is studying for a DPhil in Criminology at the University of Oxford



Jessica Penney is a 2018 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada – she is studying for a PhD in Sociology at the University of Glasgow



Natalie Jones is a 2016 Commonwealth Scholar from New Zealand – she is studying for a PhD in Law at the University of Cambridge

CAITLYN MCGEER

Policing in the Digital Era: An Analysis of Police Responses to Modern Slavery

My doctorate assesses how increased internet use, intense migration pressures, and the proliferation of organised crime alter the traditional roles of policing to determine if the police have responded accordingly to new and evolving threats. I do so by analysing national (UK) and international (Nigeria and Vietnam) policing responses to modern slavery, as it is a type of crime deeply embedded in the realities of the digital era, and how this intersects with larger questions related to humanitarianism and cross-border movement.

I assess responses to international and domestic trafficking routes and how different routes create unique roles and responsibilities on policing. Importantly, I work collaboratively with law enforcement, government, and non-governmental entities in my field sites. In Nigeria, for example, I conducted my research in partnership with the Nigerian Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the agency responsible for fulfilling of the country's domestic and international obligation to respond to trafficking in persons.

I am contributing to the knowledge-based economy on criminal justice through building international linkages and relationships. My research has the potential to impact police responses by highlighting best practices which can be applied consistently, and I am presenting on my work at the upcoming 2020 UN Crime Congress in Kyoto.

JESSICA PENNEY

Inuit Perspectives on Health and Social Issues in Nunatsiavut, Canada

My research focuses on how global processes and issues influence Inuit health and society, particularly in the north-eastern Nunatsiavut region. I am working with the local Nunatsiavut community of Rigolet to learn how residents perceive and understand a recently constructed hydroelectric project. My project considers how people believe this project will affect their health, and the types of health risk communication strategies and public programming they believe is needed to feel safe. Through this, I contemplate topics of global importance such as Indigenous rights, energy production, environmental degradation, and food systems.

This project gives space for Inuit to raise their concerns and discuss issues that they feel are important with a fellow Inuk researcher. The findings of the research can then be implemented back into the community, allowing participants to directly benefit from their own knowledge, to be consolidated throughout this project. Other direct beneficiaries include policymakers and community organisations who can use the innovative knowledge generated throughout the research process to create effective programming.

NATALIE JONES

International environmental law

Public and regulatory authority is currently increasingly exercised not only by national governments, but also at the global level by international organisations, groups of states acting collectively through international treaties, and other global governance bodies. Activities of states and international organisations, acting globally, can have very real local effects on individuals and communities. Many have therefore expressed concern about the so-called 'democratic deficit' in global governance. Should such affected people have a say in international decision- and policy-making that impacts them?

My doctoral research focuses on a specific claim that 'peoples' - sub-state units such as indigenous peoples and other distinct ethnic or territorial groups - have a legal right to participate in global governance activities affecting them, by virtue of the 'right to self-determination'. While this is a popular argument, often raised by indigenous peoples and other groups seeking to be heard at the United Nations, it has not yet been subject to rigorous scholarly examination. I am constructing a theoretical account of the right, drawing on previous work on self-determination. Then, I will assess to what extent this theoretical account finds support in existing international law. By studying the practice of international organisations and states, I aim to find an emerging rule of law as a matter of custom.

This research will be of interest to scholars of international law and international relations, as well as practicing international lawyers and members of international organisations. It will also be of use to indigenous peoples and others in seeking to support their claims to be heard on matters affecting them at the global level.

ALUMNI NEWS

The updates below (listed by year of award) summarise just some of the achievements of our global alumni across the last 60 years. To let us know about your successes, email alumni@cscuk.org.uk



▲ Harold Luntz



▲ Khondkar Siddique-e Rabbani

1960

Harold LUNTZ was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his distinguished service to legal education as an academic and editor and to professional development and the community. (Scholar from South Africa, BCL Law, University of Oxford)

1963

Angela SWAN was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD) by the Law Society of Ontario, in acknowledgement of her work as both a lawyer and legal educator. (Scholar from Canada, BCL, University of Oxford)

1974

Khondkar Siddique-e RABBANI was awarded a Commonwealth Digital Health Award in the telemedicine category for his project 'Telemedicine-Bangladesh', which helps connect rural populations in Bangladesh to qualified doctors through telecommunications technology. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Electronics, University of Southampton)

1981

Brian Lee CROWLEY was awarded a 2019 distinguished lectureship by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum for his work on the economic importance and vitality of natural resources. (Scholar from Canada, MSc Politics and Government, London School of Economics and Political Science)

1982

Louis TAILLEFER was a joint recipient of the 2019 Award of Excellence from the Quebec Nature and Technology Research Fund, which aims to provide financial support for research in the fields of natural sciences, mathematical sciences, and engineering. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Physics, University of Cambridge)

1983

Kevin GOHEEN has been appointed CEO of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction, an association which aims to stimulate and facilitate international cooperation and information exchange between governmental research institutes in the building and construction sector. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Naval Architecture, University College London)

1986

Eve EGOYAN has been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. She also received the 2019 Toronto Arts Foundation Muriel Sherrin Award, which celebrates exceptional attainment in music or dance. (Scholar from Canada, Music, Royal Academy of Music)

1988

Chowdhury Hafizul AHSAN has been recognised as a lifetime achiever by Continental's Who's Who for his work as a Clinical Professor and Cardiologist. (Scholar

from Bangladesh, PhD Pharmacology, University of Southampton)

Amanda B A DALE was appointed Director of the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action, an organisation dedicated to the advancement of women's equality in Canada at the local, provincial and national level. This appointment comes after previously holding the post of Executive Director of the Barbra Schlifer Clinic. (Scholar from Canada, MA Social and Political Thought, University of Sussex)

1991

Nicholas SAUL has been appointed to the Order of Canada for his innovative vision and leadership as President and CEO of Community Food Centres Canada. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Labour Studies, University of Warwick)

1992

Andrew Derek BURGESS has been appointed to the Caribbean Court of Justice, following nine years serving as a Judge in the Court of Appeal. (Academic Fellow from Barbados, Law, University of Oxford)

1994

Mark LEVICK has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Alvotech, a company specialising in biopharmaceuticals. Prior to this role he was the head of development



▲ **Mohammad Sohel Rahman**



▲ **Rakesh Aggarwal**



▲ **Chike Fidelis Oguejiofor**

of Sandoz biopharmaceuticals. (Scholar from Australia, PhD Vaccine Development, University of Cambridge)

1998

Arivuoli DAKSHANAMOORTHY has been elected a Fellow and Chartered Chemist by the Royal Society of Chemistry. (Academic Fellow from India, Materials Science, Lancaster University)

2002

Janet MCLAUGHLIN is a member of the newly established Ontario Autism Program Advisory Panel. The panel will feed back recommendations to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services as Ontario looks to double its current level of funding in supporting children with autism. (Scholar from Canada, MA Human Rights, University of Sussex)

Pritam Chand SHARMA has been appointed a fellow of the Horticultural Society of India for his contributions in the field of post-harvest technology. The fellowships recognise distinguished scientists who have made significant contributions and leadership in Horticulture. (Academic Fellow from India, Post-harvest Technology, Queen's University Belfast)

2003

Ranjana AGGARWAL has been appointed as the first female Director of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi (CSIR-NISTADS). The institute studies the interaction between science, society and state. (Academic Fellow from India, Chemical Sciences, University of Cambridge)

2005

Eureka Emefa ADOMAKO has been appointed the 17th Warden of Volta Hall, the only all-female hall of residence in the University of Ghana, alongside her work as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Plant and Environmental Biology. (Scholar from Ghana, PhD Environment and Development, University of Cambridge)

Mohammad Sohel RAHMAN has been appointed distinguished speaker for the third consecutive year by the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) distinguished speakers programme. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Computer Science, King's College London; Academic Fellow 2012; Academic Fellow 2014)

2006

Rakesh AGGARWAL has been appointed the Director of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research. (Scholar from India, MSc Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

2009

Adrienne Elizabeth CAMPBELL is the winner of the 2019 American Thoracic Society BEAR (Building Education to Advance Research) Cage competition. Campbell's work focuses on advancing functional lung imaging. (Scholar Canada, PhD Medical Physics, University College London)

2011

Chike Fidelis OGUEJIOFOR has been appointed Head of the Department of Veterinary Obstetrics and Reproductive Diseases at the University of Nigeria Nsukka. (Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Veterinary Medicine, Royal Veterinary College)

Upali De Silva JAYAWARDENA has been promoted to Senior Professor in Civil Engineering, in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Peradeniya. (Academic Fellow from Sri Lanka, Thermal Treatments of Solid Wastes, Cardiff University)

2012

Isuru KARIYAWASAM has been made a Fellow of the UK Advance Higher Education Academy in recognition of his attainment against the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and learning support in Higher Education. (Scholar from Sri Lanka, MSc Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants, University of Edinburgh; Scholar 2016, PhD Biological Sciences)



▲ Devina Lobine



▲ Sunduzwayo Madise



▲ Mariam Olafuyi



▲ Tasdik Hasan

Shoshanna SAXE has been awarded the Young Engineer Medal in the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards. The awards recognise early-career engineers who have demonstrated professional excellence as well as service to the community. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Engineering, University of Cambridge)

Tofazzal ISLAM has been elected a Fellow of the Council of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. The academy is the leading scientific organisation in Bangladesh, and its fifty fellows represent the nation's scientific community on the international stage, as some of the most distinguished scientists in Bangladesh. (Academic Fellow from Bangladesh, Biotechnology, University of Nottingham)

2013

Devina LOBINE has been awarded The Outstanding Young Person of Mauritius award by Junior Chamber International in the Academic Leadership and Accomplishment category. The award recognises young people who excel in their chosen field. (Split-site Scholar from Mauritius, PhD Biotechnology, Durham University and University of Mauritius)

Sunduzwayo MADISE has been appointed to the Malawi Human Rights Commission, which aims to lead the protection and promotion of human rights, and engender respect for human rights at all levels of society in Malawi. (Scholar from Malawi, PhD Law, University of Warwick)

Neeraj SHARMA has been awarded Technician of the Year, as part of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) annual

Achievement Awards. This is reflective of his work in developing tools to automate routine design tasks and his role in promoting STEM subjects in Government public schools. (Scholar from India, MSc Soil Mechanics & Environmental Geotechnics, Imperial College London)

2014

Parikshat Singh MANHAS has been appointed Regional Director for Asia and Eastern Europe by the World Centre of Excellence for Destinations (WCED). The WCED is a non-profit organisation based in Canada and aims to help guide tourist destinations globally towards excellence. (Professional Fellow from India, Conciliation Resources)

Mariam Olaitan OLAFUYI was awarded the prestigious Vanier Doctoral Scholarship to study at the University of Toronto. The Vanier Scholarship is designed to assist Canadian institution in attracting highly qualified doctoral students and offers 166 scholarships annually. (Shared Scholar from Nigeria, LLM Law, University of Cambridge)

2015

Eucharía Oluchi NWAICHI has been selected as a Next Einstein Forum (NEF) Fellow for her work as an environmental biochemist with a focus on petroleum-impacted environments. The NEF aims to make Africa a global hub for science and technology by identifying scientists who could be 'the next Einstein'.

(Academic Fellow from Nigeria, Environmental Science, University of Nottingham)

2016

Adejoke Olukemi AKINYELE delivered the maiden faculty lecture for the newly-created Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The lecture was entitled 'Achieving sustainable development through silviculture: Focus on tree domestication'. (Academic Fellow from Nigeria, MSc Forestry, Bangor University)

2017

M Tasdik HASAN has been appointed Chair of the Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health. He will lead a diverse group of young students and trainees to develop capacity in different areas of global health and will focus particularly on the Global South. (Scholar from Bangladesh, MSc Global Mental Health, King's College London)

Rizwan JAVED was awarded the Harold Gunson Fellowship and invited to give a presentation on his work in blood transfusion at the 29th Regional Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion in Switzerland. Javed additionally won first prize for a presentation delivered at the Joint Conference of Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine and American Association of Blood Banks in New Delhi. (Shared Scholar from India, MSc Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences, University of Bristol)

OBITUARIES

1960

David HELWIG was a former professor of English at Queen's University, Canada and an award-winning writer and poet. His notable works include the poem 'Considerations' and the collection of poems 'The Year One', for which he won the Atlantic Poetry Award. He went on to author more than 30 books and was named a member of the Order of Canada in 2009. David passed away on 16 October 2018. (Scholar from Canada, MA English, University of Liverpool)

1961

Javed ALTAF was a senior lawyer and advocate of the Supreme Court. After completing his Commonwealth Scholarship, he began his career as a civil servant in Pakistan, before becoming a lawyer. Javed passed away in October 2018. (Scholar from Pakistan, BA, University of Oxford)

1965

Charles E.S. FRANKS was Professor Emeritus in the department of Political Studies and the School of Physical Health Education at Queen's University, Canada. During his 35 years of

teaching at Queen's he established himself as a leading expert on Canada's parliamentary system. Charles passed away on 11 September 2018. (Scholar from Canada, DPhil Political Science, University of Oxford)

1983

Toufiq Mohammad SERAJ was the founder and managing director of Sheltech, a real estate and housing company. Prior to his role at Sheltech, he was the first President of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh. He passed away on 21 June 2019. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Town and Regional Planning, University of Liverpool)

1990

Carey BISSONNETTE was the first lecturer in the Faculty of Science at the University of Waterloo, appointed in 1995. During his time at the University, he served as lead author on two editions of the textbook 'General Chemistry'. Carey passed away on 29 May 2019. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Chemistry, University of Cambridge)

2002

Joyce LABOSO achieved some historic 'firsts' in Kenyan politics. As the first female Governor of Bomet County she was one of only three women to date who have won seats as governors in Kenya. Prior to her Governorship, Joyce successfully ran for a seat in Parliament, achieving a landslide election, before going on to secure two terms in office. It was during her second term that Joyce became the first female Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Joyce passed away on 29 July 2019. (Split-site Scholar from Kenya, PhD Gender Studies, University of Hull and Egerton University)

2019

Motlatsi Pius RAMOLLO was the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at the National University of Lesotho. Prior to this he served four terms as the Head of Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Motlatsi passed away on 31 July 2019 and a public memorial service was held at National University of Lesotho. (Scholar from Lesotho, PhD Engineering Mathematics, Newcastle University)

EVENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT AT LEEDS UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Scholars celebrated the 60th anniversary of the CSC, held at University of Leeds in March 2019



COMMONWEALTH SERVICE

Scholars attended the annual Commonwealth Service to mark Commonwealth Day, held at Westminster Abbey in March 2019



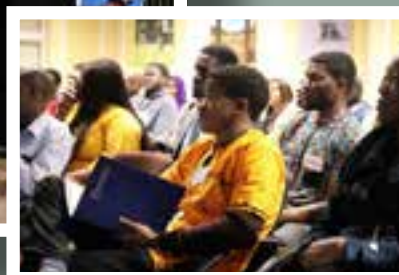
60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT AT UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Scholars celebrated the 60th anniversary of the CSC, hosted by University of Cambridge in March 2019



MAXIMISE YOUR IMPACT

A weekend of workshops was held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, in March 2019



HOW TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE

A South East Regional Network event was held at Cranfield University in April 2019, which included a workshop on how to build a sustainable enterprise, led by AccessEd



60TH ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH IMPACT

The largest anniversary event in the year: 15 Scholars were selected to present posters and artefacts demonstrating their research to 100 CSC stakeholders at The Royal Society in May 2019



EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

A workshop as part of the Development Training Programme for Scholars was held at Woburn House, London, in June 2019



60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Scholars celebrated the 60th anniversary of the CSC, hosted by University of Southampton in June 2019



COMMONWEALTH VS CHEVENING SCHOLARS FOOTBALL MATCH

The annual match between the two scholarship schemes was held in Sheffield in June 2019 – the Commonwealth team won!



PARLIAMENTARY EVENT FOR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS

A Parliamentary event for Commonwealth Scholars, which gave selected Scholars the opportunity to meet British Members of Parliament and Peers, was held at the Houses of Parliament in London in July 2019

CSC FAREWELL EVENT

Our annual event for departing Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, held in London in July 2019



EVENTS

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2019 - 'A CONNECTED COMMONWEALTH'

Commonwealth Day is held every year in March, and to mark Commonwealth Day this year, the CSC invited alumni to organise events and engagement activities on or around Commonwealth Day to promote or address this year's theme. 19 events took place across the Commonwealth, organised by alumni and local alumni associations. To read summaries and view photos from all events, visit cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/2019/04/alumni-mark-commonwealth-day-2019/

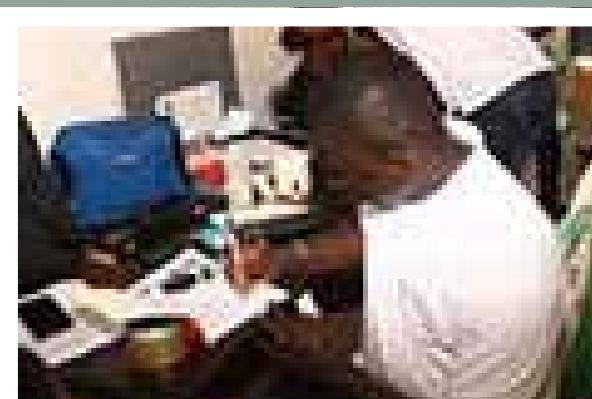
BANGLADESH

Alumni attended the Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Association of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows (BACSAF) and welcomed home recently returned Scholars in Dhaka in January 2019.



BARBADOS

Alumni in Barbados attended a Commonwealth Day coffee morning, hosted by British High Commissioner Janet Douglas in Bridgetown in April 2019.



CAMEROON

Alumni Enowntai Nkongho Ayukotang and Katty Mbikang Akpey organised a free eye health screening and delivered talks on gender-based violence for over 80 vulnerable women in the Mfoundi Division. Prior to the event, both organisers gave interviews with the Cameroon National Radio and Television (CNRT) on the event, eye health, and gender-based violence in Cameroon.



The Cameroon Alumni of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows (CACSAF) organised four key events to mark Commonwealth Day 2019 in Douala. Events included football matches and a sports walk, bringing together students and youth from across the area, a roundtable conference on 'Connectedness in Multicultural Commonwealth Cameroon', and an alumni meeting. Alumni worked with the University of Douala Commonwealth Club in delivering events and promoting the importance of the Commonwealth in Cameroon.

To see more images of alumni events, please visit the CSC Flickr here: www.flickr.com/photos/cscuk/albums

CANADA

Alumni attended an event co-organised with the British Council and British Consulate-General in Toronto to explore opportunities for collaboration between the UK and Canada and discuss the current relationship between the two countries in Toronto in March 2019.

Commonwealth Alumnus Senator Boehm hosted an event for alumni at the Senate of Canada in April in 2019.



MALAYSIA

Alumni attended an annual meeting to reconnect and meet recently returned Scholars in Kuala Lumpur in February 2019.

MAURITIUS

The UK Commonwealth Alumni – Mauritius Chapter (UKCAC) organised a roundtable discussion on 'Free tertiary education in public institutions in Mauritius'. Alumni were joined by guest speakers Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius and Associate Professor, M Santally, and Yamal Matabudul, CEO Polytechnics Mauritius.



SIERRA LEONE

The Commonwealth Alumni Association of Sierra Leone (CAASL) held a reintegration workshop for recently returned Commonwealth Scholars to help them navigate the transition from their time in the UK to applying their new skills and knowledge in the workplace and career development in Freetown in February 2019.

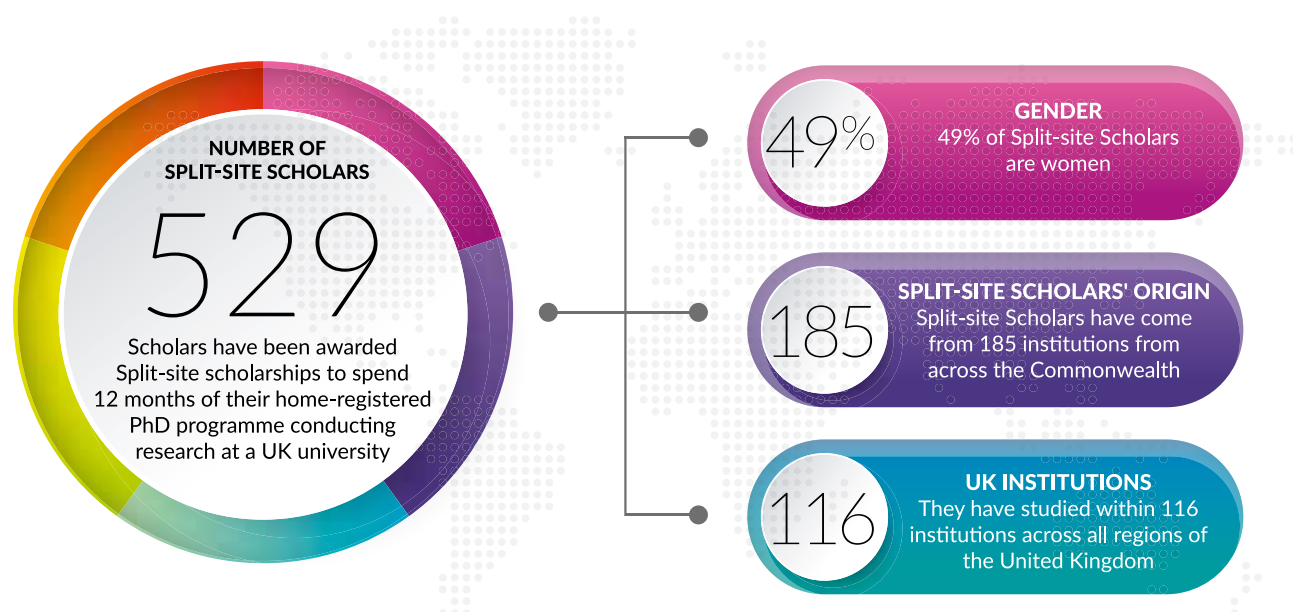
Alumnus Rashid Dumbuya, CEO of LEGAL LINK, on behalf of the Commonwealth Alumni Chapter in Sierra Leone (CAASL), delivered a public lecture on human rights and the values of the Commonwealth. Over 300 people attended, including secondary school pupils, university students, and representatives of vulnerable groups and civil society organisations. The event was supported by volunteers from LEGAL LINK.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SPLIT-SITE SCHOLARSHIPS

Split-site Scholarships enable talented and motivated students from low and middle income Commonwealth countries to spend 12 months of their PhD programme conducting research at a UK university. The programme supports development-oriented research by facilitating access to UK equipment and expertise while strengthening collaborations between (home) universities across the Commonwealth and (host) UK partners.

To celebrate 20 years of the programme, the CSC Evaluation team conducted an evaluation to explore the outcomes and impacts of Split-site scholarships between 1998 and 2018

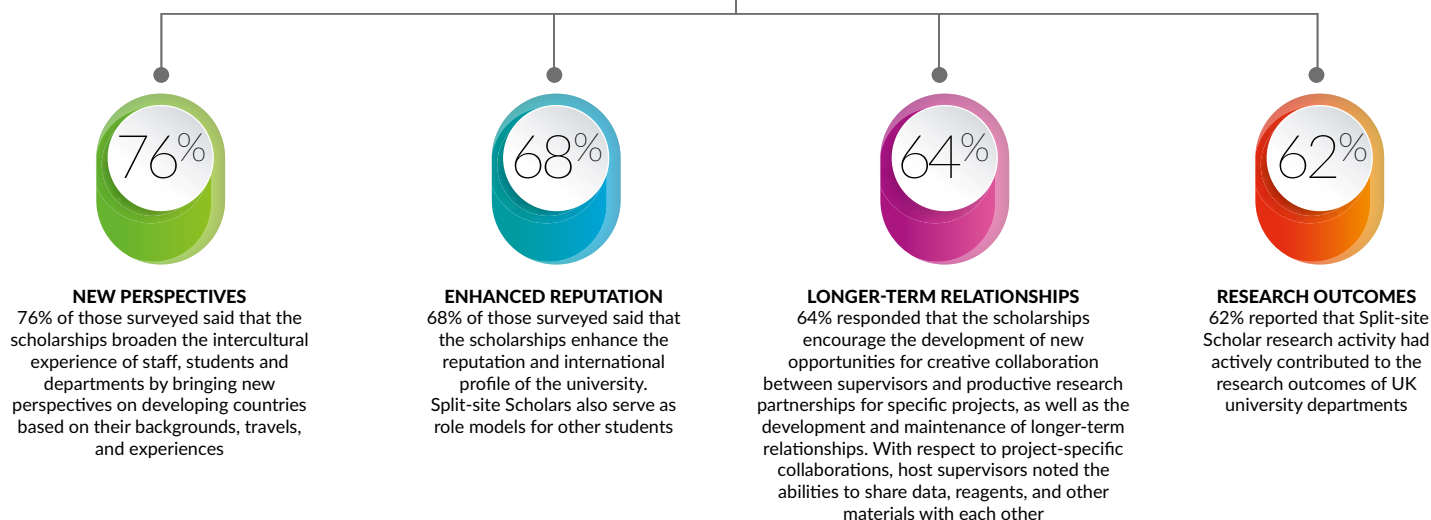


As part of the evaluation, the CSC Evaluation team also sent out three specific surveys targeted towards current and former Split-site scholars, home supervisors and UK host supervisors. In total, there were 330 respondents across the three surveys

92

UK HOST SUPERVISORS

Split-site Scholarships have the following clear benefits to UK host supervisors and Higher Education institutions:



GET INVOLVED!

You can stay part of the CSC community through events across the Commonwealth, promoting our Scholarships and Fellowships to potential applicants, and joining our alumni associations and other networks.

REGIONAL NETWORKS

Connect with Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows in the same university or region in the UK

Scotland

North West

North East

Wales and Northern Ireland

Midlands and Oxford

South West

South East

For full details, visit cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/networks/regional-networks

KNOWLEDGE HUBS

The CSC's nine Knowledge Hubs provide a platform for Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni studying and working in similar disciplines to network and exchange ideas to support a shared sustainable development outcome.

As a member of a Hub you can post news about your current work and research, share links to reading and publications, and ask and answer questions related to your work.

The nine Knowledge Hubs are focused on the following sustainable development outcomes:

- Achieving sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Attaining sustainable economic growth
- Achieving inclusive education
- Strengthening climate change resilience and mitigation
- Ensuring gender equality and equal opportunity
- Strengthening global governance
- Increasing global health coverage
- Enhancing science, technology, and innovation
- Promoting peace, justice, and fair representation for all

For full details about the Hubs and to join, visit cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/networks/knowledge-hubs/

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

Meet and network with past, present, and future Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows



Africa

Cameroon
Ghana
Kenya
Lesotho
Malawi
Mauritius

Namibia
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia



Caribbean

Barbados
Grenada
Guyana

Jamaica
St Lucia
Trinidad and Tobago



Europe

Gibraltar



N. America

Canada



South Asia

Bangladesh
India
Malaysia

Pakistan
Sri Lanka

For full details, visit cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/alumni/associations/

For further details about these activities and more, visit www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk

COMMON KNOWLEDGE

ISSUE #8 SEPTEMBER 2019



▲ Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are pictured here with CSC Commissioners, sharing their message about making education inclusive for all, as part of UK government's first ever Global Disability Summit in July 2018.



Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK

Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
United Kingdom
info@cscuk.org.uk
dfid.gov.uk/cscuk



[linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships](https://www.linkedin.com/company/commonwealthscholarships)
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