



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

COMMON LEADGE

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Clean Energy, Air and Oceans

Commonwealth Scholars explain how they are tackling the most pressing climate and environmental issues of our time

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The first word



The CSC's Time Limited Programme (TLP) for 2022/2023 is Clean Energy, Air and Oceans in response to the UK government's call to action at last year's COP26 in Glasgow.

The programme will fund a maximum of 20 Professional Fellows to spend a period of time at one of up to five UK host organisations. Taking their lead from the Glasgow Climate Pact, these participating host organisations must demonstrate how their programmes will contribute to reducing reliance on fossil fuels, lowering rates of air pollution, or promoting marine conservation.

We chose to focus upon greener energy in the knowledge that more research is urgently needed into expanding the use of renewable energy sources. Cleaner energy can benefit the climate, environment, economy, communities, and development more broadly. Cleaner air, meanwhile, means a reduction in air pollution, improvements in global health, and the removal of harmful pollutants from the air – which will in turn help tackle rising temperatures and turn the tide on climate change. Last but not least, as oceans regulate the global climate, provide 50% of the world's oxygen, and contribute to vital resources, from food to medicines, they need protecting, cleaning, and maintaining for future generations. These three areas also link to specific Sustainable Development Goals – 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 13 (Climate Action), and 14 (Life Below Water), alongside having a potential impact on others – 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 15 (Life on Land).

Networking between the Fellows and host organisations is a key aspect built into the current programme, allowing for more skills sharing and bringing in broader perspectives on key issues. The TLP will also provide legacy funding for Professional Fellowship Alumni to collaborate on future events after the programme ends.

This issue of *Common Knowledge* celebrates a small selection of the work of Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni working in climate sustainability fields directly related to energy, air and oceans and illustrate the kind of impact our Scholars and alumni are having on urgent climate change issues today.

We learn, through an article by Commonwealth Alumnus Bernice Charles, the importance of energy regulations to enable citizen participation in generating clean electricity in Seychelles. In Nigeria, current Scholar Prince Anthony Okoro is investigating the feasibility of bioenergy to help his home country reach its target of ensuring 30% of its energy comes from renewable sources by 2030. 2019 Scholar Suame Ampana shares his research into the potential of geothermal energy in his home country, Papua New Guinea, in the article 'Steaming Ahead'. Hanu Priya Indiran describes how we can transition from 5G to 6G in an energy-efficient manner that will help advance climate

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action. And in the article 'The hidden power of waves', Commonwealth Alumnus Akanksha Gupta explains how her research into wave energy harvesting has benefits for mitigating marine pollution and protecting coastal communities.

We know that there is tremendous expertise amongst our Scholars and alumni who are striving towards sustainable and climate-conscious solutions to development challenges. The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission applauds the vital work of this next generation of leaders in climate change research and action implementation.

Forthcoming activities such as the Clean Energy, Air and Oceans themed Alumni Community Engagement Fund in 2022/2023 will build upon the series of activities already delivered by the CSC in response to our call to action on climate-related challenges during last year's COP26. This includes the Climate Action webinar series, a cross-scholarships hackathon, and climate-related events and workshops. You can re-visit these activities and outputs on the CSC website.

We are always delighted to hear about your work and achievements. Stay in touch; keep getting involved in our alumni activities; and grow your network by connecting with fellow Commonwealth Alumni who are striving to build a better world across diverse development themes and sectors. We look forward to hearing from you.

Professor Morag McDonald
CSC Commissioner





The hidden power of waves

Commonwealth Alumnus **Akanksha Gupta** explains how her research in wave energy harvesting has benefits for mitigating marine pollution and protecting coastal communities.



Akanksha Gupta

2020 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar

India

PhD Geophysical Fluid Dynamics

University of Dundee and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Approximately 71% of the Earth's surface is water and 97% of this water is held in our ocean. The ocean has a significant impact on the Earth's temperature and weather, food security for humans and other organisms, clean energy production, and global economies through transport and trade. Despite knowing the importance of the ocean, considerable damage has been done through river and marine pollution, overfishing, and ocean acidification.

My research is focused on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life below water, which seeks to conserve and sustainably harness the ocean, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. Target 14.1 aims to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds by 2025. My work also addresses SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, by ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

My research into wave energy contributes to these goals from two perspectives: first, through wave energy harvesting and secondly, through the mitigation of marine pollutants.

Understanding waves and their potential

Waves provide a limitless source of clean energy which can be harvested to produce electricity and contribute to the mix of clean energies that can replace fossil fuels. To meet global energy demand, we need to adopt an efficient approach to harvesting wave energy.

To do this, we need to understand how water waves interact to create constructive waves that have the greatest energy harvesting potential. We also need to understand how this interaction can be optimised for energy production. At the same time, knowing how waves interact also enables us to monitor how waves capture marine pollution. In turn, this information can be used to clean our ocean and rivers.

Identifying optimal locations for wave energy harvesting

There are four key ingredients to my research: surface gravity waves (the waves you can see on the surface of the water); the seabed or seafloor; background currents (horizontal movement of the water column); and tracer particles (such as pollutants within a waterway).

The seafloor can take the form of coral reefs, sea grass, and stones. These natural shapes influence the amplitude of surface gravity waves. My research is focused on finding the optimised shape of seafloor to produce constructive interactions between waves for energy harvesting.

Using my research, we will be able to construct an artificial seabed in predefined zones in the ocean which will amplify and capture wave energy using wave energy converters. We can also implement artificial seabed in the nearshore environments and rivers, where the water depth is shallow, to identify optimal locations for wave energy harvesting.

Due to the interaction between waves and seabed, these locations can also serve as key sites where marine pollutants are trapped by waves and can be extracted.

Capturing pollution in rivers and waterways

A significant amount of the pollution found in our ocean has travelled through polluted rivers and waterways. Capturing pollution in our rivers before it reaches the ocean will be an important step towards reducing marine pollution. To address this, I have applied my research to

**First, we have to clean our rivers
so we can clean our ocean.
It's like closing a main tap."**

riverbed engineering. Constructing artificial riverbeds in optimal locations, such as sections of rivers that travel through cities, will enable us to capture pollution before it travels out to the ocean. By transporting pollutants to either side of the riverbank, these artificial riverbeds introduce a novel technique which could be useful and cost-effective assets for organisations cleaning up our rivers and ocean.

There are several different considerations to assess in applying my research to rivers. As well as understanding the surface gravity waves and optimal riverbed shape, river flow can be affected by estuaries, dams, tidal waves, and the location of the river itself.

Following the completion of my PhD at the University of Dundee and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, I plan to collaborate with my PhD supervisor and researchers at the University of Aberdeen to test my theory by conducting experiments. These small-scale experiments will enable me to further develop my research and identify the optimal locations and riverbed shape to capture pollution in rivers. I also hope to implement my research in the river Yamuna in my hometown Agra, India, which is a highly polluted waterway.

Protecting coastal communities

My research can also be applied to protect coastal communities. Whilst high amplitude waves can be harvested to generate clean energy, these waves can be destructive for coastal communities. Occurrences such as tsunamis and tidal flooding can result in the loss of homes, livelihoods, and lives. Using my research, we can vary the seabed shape to suppress the amplitude of waves, reducing the interaction and energy generated and the likelihood of repeat natural disasters in some locations. Whilst this will not wholly prevent natural disasters of this kind, it can reduce the impact.

Working together to maintain a healthy planet

I am very excited about the potential of my research and am looking forward to testing my theory and predictions through conducting experiments. Following these tests and the further development of my research, I plan to reach out to organisations working in river and ocean clean-ups to showcase how my work can support their efforts to reduce marine pollution and maintain a healthy planet. **CK**



Regulating a transforming sector

Commonwealth Alumnus **Bernice Charles** shares the importance of energy regulations to enable citizen participation in generating clean electricity in Seychelles.



Bernice Charles

2018 Commonwealth Scholar

Seychelles

LLM Energy Law and Policy

University of Dundee

I am the Principal Licensing and Enforcement Officer with the Seychelles Energy Commission (SEC). The SEC has two functions: to implement energy policies in Seychelles and regulate the electricity sector. I support the SEC with its regulatory mandate.

In my role, I process and approve applications and licenses from private citizens and companies to install photovoltaic systems (PV systems) to generate electricity. PV systems are a renewable energy technology which transform energy from the sun into electricity using photovoltaics.

Electricity generation is the only part of Seychelles' electricity sector that is open to private sector participation and empowers individuals or businesses to become either prosumers (someone who both produces and consumes energy) or independent power producers (IPP). As an IPP, they can install a PV system to generate clean electricity on a large scale and sell it to the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC). The PUC is state owned and is currently Seychelles' only large-scale producer of electricity and its only transmitter and distributor of electricity. All electricity produced by IPPs is sold to the PUC. This provides an additional revenue stream for business and individuals, whilst contributing to Seychelles' renewable energy goals. The government aims for Seychelles to produce 15% of its electricity through renewable sources by 2030.

Regulating private participation in the energy sector

Introducing private sector participation into the energy sector requires robust regulations. In 2012

an Energy Act was introduced to regulate the electricity sector, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the IPP, PUC, and the SEC.

Through the Act, the SEC can approve and monitor the size of the systems installed, ensure the stability of the utilities grid, and that private citizens are educated on the different types of renewable energy technologies available. The Act also made provisions for financial incentives to encourage and assist those wanting to install PV systems, including a rebate scheme, the first phase of which ended in 2022. The statistical records of those participating enable the SEC to monitor the extent to which renewable energy targets are being met through private sector and private citizen participation as part of our efforts to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

Becoming a legal expert on energy law and policy

In 2016, I was part of a team which reviewed the Act, identifying gaps in its provision and ways to address these. There was no-one within the SEC to advise on the Act's legal aspects and so despite not having a legal background, I soon became the contact for this. To fulfil this role, I undertook research to identify similar acts and recommend updates. It was during this time that I felt I needed

We need that clear legal framework to guide the development of the electricity sector. Not the wild west where people just decide to do whatever they want."

more legal knowledge to effectively contribute and advocate for changes to be made. This is what motivated me to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship.

During my Master's in Energy Law and Policy at the University of Dundee, I completed a module on the 'Liberalisation of the regulatory sector'. Through this module, I learned everything I needed to know about opening the energy sector to private sector participation, including best practice, preparing legal frameworks, and project financing.

My dissertation was a comparative study of energy regulations and practices in small island states and focused on Seychelles, Mauritius, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Through this research I was able to identify best practices across the three countries and ways in which Seychelles could improve its energy planning. This included the use of an Integrated Electricity Plan (IEP) in Mauritius which guides future generation planning. IEPs typically form part of an overall Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). For small islands, developing IEPs and IRPs can help utilise resources and can aid future planning and investment in energy generation.

I am currently the only person at SEC with a legal background and can provide effective input and guidance on legal matters. In early 2022, we conducted a further review of the Energy Act and regulations. As part of this, I brought together stakeholders from across government and civil society organisations through a programme of workshops to provide input on the proposed

changes. The review has led to the introduction of four new regulations designed to better manage private sector participation, including an independent power producer regulation and tariff methodology.

Supporting low income and vulnerable households

Private participation in electricity generation does not come without barriers. The financial and technical requirements outlined for IPPs in the license regulations limits participation to those who can afford installation and maintenance costs, as well as to those who have technical qualifications. For many in low income households, installing small distributed generators to cut electricity costs is not possible, however this group could financially benefit the most in the long-term from PV system installations.

To support low income and vulnerable households in participating in private electricity generation and to promote equal access, the government initially launched a democratisation of PV project, supported by a grant from India. Through this project, PV systems were installed in 100 households selected by the Agency for Social Protection. A 1MW solar farm was also developed on reclaimed land on Romainville island which vulnerable households can access. This project and funding is no longer available, however I hope that in the future the government will look to develop more national projects and schemes to increase participation and access amongst low income households.

Meeting our renewable energy targets

Despite the financial and technical barriers, 660 households and businesses have invested in PV systems, which has contributed to 6.6MW of clean electricity across Seychelles and its islands. This is enough electricity to power the third largest island, La Digue, with a population of approximately 2,800 people.

Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outline ambitious climate change mitigation targets and have led to increased government funding to better manage the energy sector in Seychelles and explore new ways to reach our renewable energy targets.

In late 2020, I worked on a UNECA and RES4AFRICA regulatory review of the electricity sector of Seychelles. I was part of a team of consultants completing a regulatory review of the electricity sector, which included identifying private sector barriers to investment, and making recommendations on how to remove these barriers to increase private sector participation. The review report was published in 2021 and will greatly help in achieving our ambitious NDC targets and in increasing the deployment of more renewable energy.

The SEC is now in the process of contracting a consultant to work on developing an integrated resource plan which will look at available resources and provide an integrated electricity plan for future investments in the electricity sector. **CK**



Steaming ahead

Commonwealth Scholar **Suame Ampana** shares his research into the potential of geothermal energy in Papua New Guinea.



Suame Ampana

2019 Commonwealth Scholar

Papua New Guinea

PhD Geothermal (Energy) Exploration

Cardiff University

Geothermal energy refers to the extraction of heat trapped in the Earth's sub-surface. Heated water and/or gas are brought to the surface and converted to generate clean electrical energy via steam turbines.

My PhD research aims to map out the volumes of geothermal reservoirs in Papua New Guinea. By applying geophysical tools and techniques to investigate viable geothermal fields (those with temperatures greater than 250 degrees Celsius), I am able to calculate the volume of heat stored beneath the fields and how much geothermal energy they could potentially produce. These estimates can be used to determine the lifespan of a geothermal field and its heat reservoirs, and can predict the output of a powerplant. This information is critical to encourage decisionmakers and stakeholders to invest in further research and development in this area and engineer new powerplants that can generate high volumes of clean electricity.

The current energy landscape

Papua New Guinea has significant geothermal potential. It is situated in one of the most active tectonic regions in the world, in the south-western edge of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire', where the Australian and Pacific Plates are colliding. Currently, there are 41 known geothermal fields in Papua New Guinea which could be tapped to provide geothermal energy, however there are many more unknown areas yet to be explored.

In 2010, only 8.3% of the country's energy supply was geothermal, compared to 49.6% fossil fuel and 42.1% hydro. This continued reliance on fossil fuels, despite Papua New Guinea's geothermal energy potential, highlights a need to further promote geothermal energy as a sustainable and alternative clean energy opportunity.

Moreover, since 2012, the country has experienced economic and industrial growth due to its vast natural resources. This expansion has led to increased energy demand to support industry and economic opportunities. To meet this demand, we need to identify and implement more sustainable energy sources.

We also need to address the fact that many rural areas still do not have access to electricity at all due to several

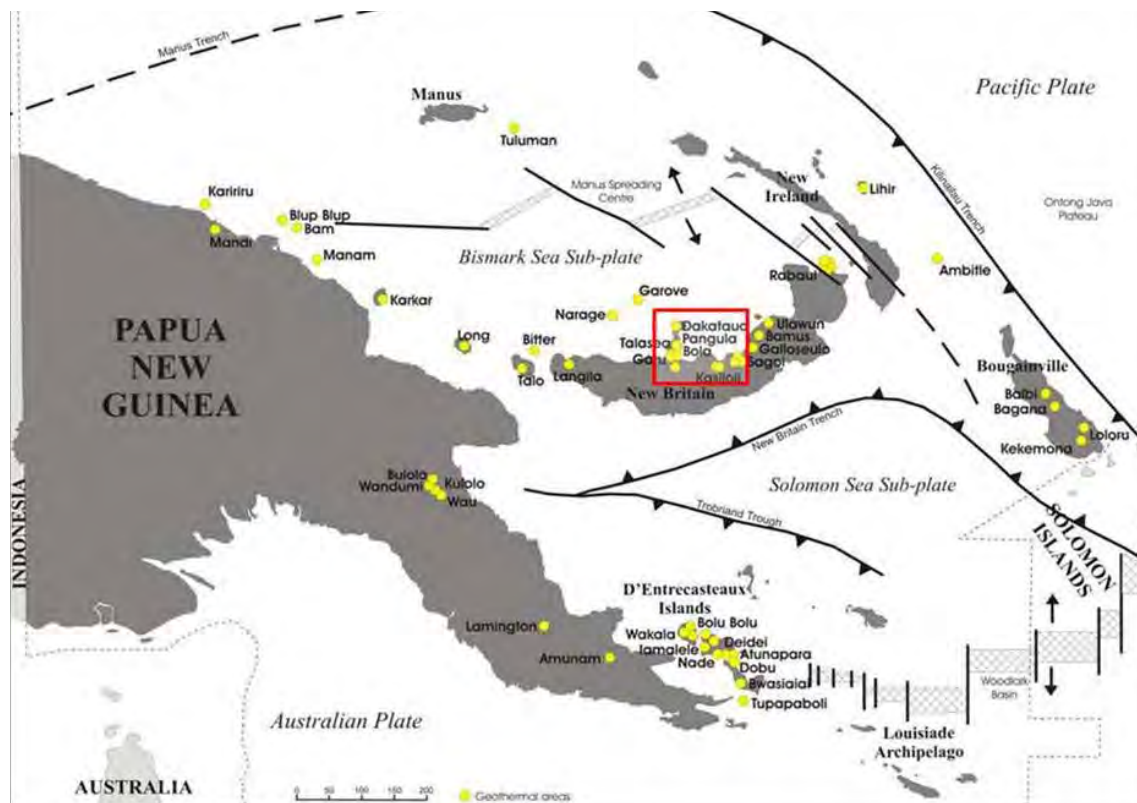
challenges, including the rugged terrain. The Papua New Guinea Vision 2050 aims to achieve 100% access to electricity across the country. With geothermal fields located throughout the country, the development of localised geothermal energy powerplants near villages and settlements could support this vision.

There is already an existing successful example of geothermal energy being used to generate clean electricity in Papua New Guinea. A private plant was developed by a mining company to support extraction in 2003. Initially commissioned to generate 26 megawatts power, the plant was upgraded to 56 megawatts capacity in 2005, which produces electrical energy capable of powering approximately 50,000 households. Using this as an example of geothermal energy supporting industrial investment in Papua New Guinea, I have successfully petitioned for similar sites to be considered by the government for industrial and public energy provision.

The practicalities

The Mineral Resource Authority of Papua New Guinea (MRA) governs the country's geothermal energy and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Papua New Guinea University of Technology in January 2019 to fund geothermal research and exploration. As a lecturer at the university, my research has been approved by the MRA and will contribute to their investigation into geothermal potential and resource assessment studies.

The MRA has already gathered fluid samples from two geothermal sites of interest among others: Talasea and Magouru on New Britain island. These samples have been used to estimate temperature readings via geothermometry. The suitability of sites for electricity generation were based on several important criteria. These include proximity to the population, proximity to industrial activity, reservoir temperatures, and whether reservoirs can be considered 'neutral waters' (if the reservoir content is fluid with high acidity, this may affect the productivity of an engineering plant over time due to corrosion).



Tectonics setting of Papua New Guinea (PNG) region. Yellow circles indicate known geothermal fields in PNG from Mosusu (2008) and Heming (1969). The plate/micro-plate boundaries are modified from Williamson and Hancock (2005). Red rectangle indicates geothermal fields targeted in this study.

It should be noted that geothermal energy does not come without environmental risks. In extracting heated water and/or gas, greenhouse gases are also released. However, technology has been developed to capture and re-inject these back into the Earth. Ongoing work to further develop this system and minimise environmental risks is helping to push forward global investment into geothermal energy as an environmentally friendly energy resource.

The future of geothermal energy use

The second phase of my research was planned fieldwork to map out and calculate the reservoir volume of geothermal sites using geophysical exploration tools. Unfortunately, in 2020 funding from the MRA to support the labour costs of this work was diverted for COVID-19 relief, and I am eagerly awaiting the allocation of renewed funding to implement my fieldwork.

In the meantime, and with support from my supervisor at Cardiff University, I have switched my research to investigate the tectonic framework surrounding Papua New Guinea and how this creates geothermal occurrences across the country. Whilst there is a general understanding of volcanic and geothermal occurrences from the framework of plate tectonics, the specific structural details and tectonic framework governing their occurrences are still a subject of research. My research aims to develop a tectonic model to help provide insight into the occurrence of geothermal and volcanic features in the study area.

Further research and modelling are therefore required and will contribute to the MRA's and global research in this area. So far, a substantial database comprising of various data sets have been built that will become the basis of my analysis, interpretation, and the tectonic modelling of Papua New Guinea's region.

My new area of research also has the potential to go beyond the application of geothermal energy. In understanding more about the tectonic framework of Papua New Guinea's region, this work can also contribute meaningfully to earthquake and hazard mapping, which are both critical in such an active tectonic setting.

24 countries are currently utilising their geothermal potential to generate clean energy. In particular, the Philippines is exploring geothermal power generation, similar to Papua New Guinea. Therefore, a comparative study to assess the ability to generate power in Papua New Guinea is worth investigating and provides an interesting comparison point as part of my research.

As the global power demand increases and the climate crisis worsens, research into alternative and clean energy sources is critical for future decision making. Through my research and that of others in this field, we hope to show that geothermal energy can compete as a clean energy source and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. In Papua New Guinea, I hope it will also be utilised to achieve access to electricity for all and positively transform the livelihoods of those currently living in rural areas without electricity. **CK**

Transforming Nigeria's renewable energy landscape

Commonwealth Scholar **Prince Anthony Okoro** is investigating the feasibility of bioenergy to help Nigeria reach its target of ensuring 30% of its energy comes from renewable sources by 2030.



According to a joint report by IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank and WHO, over 90 million Nigerians (that is 45% of the entire population) lack access to electricity. This makes Nigeria one of the countries with the largest energy access deficit in the world. At the same time, Nigeria is one of six countries where the total energy consumption is still growing at a faster rate than its renewable energy consumption. The International Energy Agency reported in 2019 that 80% of all power generated in Nigeria comes from gas. Most of the remainder comes from oil, with Nigeria being the largest user of oil-fired back-up generators in Africa.

This is set to change. As part of the Sustainable Energy for ALL Action Agenda, Nigeria has laid out plans to ensure universal access to modern energy services in Nigeria by 2030. By this date, the Agenda also plans for 30% of the country's electricity to come from renewable sources.

As a student with a background in electrical engineering, I took this as a challenge. Focusing my research on bioenergy, I set out to discover how biomass could help Nigeria gear up for a cleaner energy future.



Prince Anthony Okoro

2021 Commonwealth Scholar

Nigeria

PhD Bioenergy

Energy and Bioproducts
Research Institute, Aston
University

Exploring the potential of biomass

Biomass is renewable organic material that comes from plants and animals. Plants produce this material by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) via photosynthesis, animals mostly produce it through their waste. It is our only renewable source of carbon and it comes in many forms: wood, grass, food waste, seaweed, to name just a few. Biomass can be used to produce many forms of energy, including heat, electricity, fuel for cars and aeroplanes, chemicals, cooking gas, and it can be used to power factories.

I first saw that energy can be generated from biomass at the Africa Energy Forum in Lisbon in 2019. Knowing that Nigeria has an abundance of biomass, and that the current management system for getting rid of that biomass is mostly through burning and landfills, I set out to come up with a solution to utilise this waste and convert it into bioenergy.

This journey began with a Master's, where I designed a gasification system (to convert biomass into biogas) and ran a techno-economic assessment to compare the cost of energy that originates from this gasification system with other energy sources. Next, two classmates (Chikwado and Chigozie) from the University of Nigeria and I applied this research to start a business with the aim of developing and setting up sustainable energy systems to support Africa's transition to an affordable, reliable, and low-emission future. We called it BEBEQUE Ltd, and as a team we have already won a number of competitions, including the Africa Energy Idea Competition and the Entrepreneurship World Cup Challenge (where we were crowned the national winner). We are currently also among the finalists for a global Agri-Tech Award with the results due to be announced in May 2023.



BEBEQUE Team conducting a rice husk assessment at Abakaliki Rice Mill

Renewable energy should not only be about sustainability, it should also be about inclusion. In the context of bioenergy, this means designing a system that also brings about societal and economic benefits."

It was at this stage that I became eager to deepen my research into bioenergy even further. I identified the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) at Aston University as the best place for my development, and through a Commonwealth Scholarship was awarded the funding to carry out my PhD.

My knowledge about bioenergy has already improved in the few months that I've been here. I've learned new methods, I've learned how to work with different stakeholders in the political, industrial, and societal spheres, and have discovered how to bring learnings from these different groups together to develop a practical and sustainable bioenergy solution

that meets the needs of end-users. As part of my PhD research and work, and with the support of my supervisors (Dr. Mirjam Röder and Dr. Katie Chong) and EBRI, I also won the first Future Game Changers Award at the 2022 British Renewable Energy Awards (REA) earlier this year. This award celebrates the work of organisations and individuals who are contributing to the push for net zero by 2050.

Communication and inclusion

Another valuable aspect of my PhD that stands out so far is learning how to communicate the potential of bioenergy to different audiences.

To this end, I have been among the team leading a global workshop series called the 'Global Supergen Bioenergy Story' for teenagers and children. Our aim is to increase awareness of bioenergy and its potential among young people, who have usually only heard of other renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. These workshops are giving me an important insight into how best to communicate the importance of sustainable bioenergy solution to policymakers, industry, and society when I return to Nigeria.

This communication aspect is also important because renewable energy should not only be about



Prince receiving the Future Game Changers Award at the 2022 British Renewable Energy Awards

sustainability, it should also be about inclusion. In the context of bioenergy, this means designing a system that also brings about societal and economic benefits. The cross-disciplinary discoveries I am making through my PhD are hugely important in this respect. In the past, my research into bioenergy systems has been mainly focused on a technoeconomic analysis. With this PhD, I am also carrying out a socioeconomic analysis to understand how bioenergy systems will facilitate economic and socioeconomic development in the short, medium, and long-term.

The future of bioenergy in Nigeria

Over the next five years, success for me will involve increasing the number of people who have access to clean energy and on making a meaningful contribution to the development of a sustainable bioenergy sector in Nigeria.

Energy access in Nigeria's rural areas is still limited. At the same time, Nigeria

has big plans to introduce more renewable energy into the national grid. When it comes to bioenergy, The Sustainable Energy for ALL Action Agenda stipulates that bioenergy should make up 4% of the national grid's energy sources by 2030. This is a relatively modest ambition, which I believe can be attributed to the lack of sufficient data available in Nigeria to inform policymakers on the benefits of sustainable bioenergy systems.

Through my PhD research, I hope to help change this. By providing an in-depth study into the technoeconomic and socio-economic benefits of different bioenergy case studies, I will be in a position to inform policy, industry, and society on the costs involved in the transition to a low carbon future with the help of bioenergy.

So far, my research shows that on the economic side, bioenergy offers a fair cost of ownership to end-users. I expect this to also be true for Nigeria, however I still need to carry out more in-depth research in this area. Beyond investigating the cost of ownership,

my PhD is evaluating the impact of bioenergy on climate change (SDG 13), food and energy security (SDGs 2 and 7) and employment and well-being (SDGs 3 and 8). In these areas I can already say that the benefits of bioenergy are bountiful; from creating better health outcomes by reducing the environmental degradation caused by fossil fuels and burning biomass; to helping create new jobs and increasing food security by returning nutrients to the soil. These discoveries are important to ensure that bioenergy projects in Nigeria are in line with community needs.

Bearing all of this in mind, my plan for the next five years is to connect or install a bioenergy system in Nigeria that will provide energy to at least 50 off-grid households or businesses. I do not know if the launch will happen so swiftly, but this is what I am aiming towards, and it will be greatly helped by the industrial and academic partnerships I have forged through my Commonwealth Scholarship. **CK**



Lighting up the digital communications universe

Commonwealth Scholar **Hanu Priya Indiran** reveals how we can transition from 5G to 6G in an energy-efficient manner that will help advance climate action.

6G



By replacing the huge electronic receivers currently used for these servers with small photonic transmitters and receivers, we will be able to reduce our collective carbon footprint considerably."

Hanu Priya Indiran

2021 Commonwealth Scholar

India

MRes in Connected Electronic and Photonic Systems

University of Cambridge

The growing number of people using the internet for their work, for streaming services, and for communication, means that having access to 6G will be essential in the next 10 years. However, moving to 6G means moving to terahertz communication, an advanced wireless technology for ultra-high speed wireless communication which requires bulky transceivers that consume a lot of energy. This is not highly efficient and is harmful to the environment. Through her Commonwealth Scholarship, Hanu has been devising an alternative answer to this problem.

I am researching how to drive forward the transition from 5G to 6G with the help of photonics. Photonics is defined as the physical science of light generation, detection, and manipulation. It describes an area of science with the aim of using light to perform functions traditionally accomplished using electronics.

In the context of my research, this means looking at how light energy (specifically, lasers) can be used instead of electricity to drive 6G receivers. This would be a major leap forward in helping us to reduce our digital carbon footprint. The amount of heat currently generated by data centres powering our digital communication methods (such as emails, text messages, and our social networks) is huge. According to the Boston Consulting Group, the internet is responsible for around 2% of greenhouse gas emissions per year - a percentage that is roughly comparable with that of the aviation industry.

This number will only rise as the number of internet users around the world continues to grow. By 2030, it is estimated that communication technology could contribute up to 23% of global carbon emissions. At the same time, cutting digital technologies out of our lives is not really an option. Like many of our practices that are harmful to the environment, we need to find alternative and more sustainable ways to power our reliance on the internet.

Exploring technological solutions to the climate crisis

My interest in climate action is firmly rooted in my background as a tribal girl hailing from the Hills of Tamil Nadu in India. Farming is almost everything to my community, and I have seen first-hand the devastating effect that climate change is having on agriculture.

My academic interest in the climate crisis has been growing since the age of 13, when I first discovered just how important technology will be in tackling climate change – and that I had the skill set to impact this area. So, when I later moved into engineering, I decided to dedicate all my projects from my first year until now to climate action, with the aim of exploring the technological answers that industries across the world need to tackle the climate crisis.

These projects have ranged from looking at how solar cells can be used in electric vehicles to creating a pollution and monitoring control system built for industrial chimneys during my undergraduate degree. It excites me to see the impact that these projects go on to have. The pollution and monitoring control system, for example, has now been picked up by a joint EU-India project on ICT Standardisation which is looking at rolling the system out to industrial sites across India.

My current focus on reducing the carbon footprint of our technological communication systems was sparked during a year of work experience. This was the starting point for my Commonwealth Scholarship Master's.



Once it is set up for implementation, these photonic receivers can be used in all the major data servers, from Google to Facebook... It could bring about an environmental revolution within the communications industry"

Transforming the future of 6G

Since starting my Master's earlier this year at the University of Cambridge, I have been working in collaboration with the Rutherford Appleton Space Laboratory at University College London (UCL), through a partnership called 'Connected Photonic and Electronic Systems'. The research group at UCL has been working in this area for the last 20 years and has been at the forefront of advancements in terahertz communication systems. Their expertise has been hugely beneficial in helping me with my own research.

My focus has been on setting up a proof of concept for a 6G receiver that uses photonics. I have been testing it to see how well it works in comparison to electronically powered 6G receivers; how well it receives data, how fast it is, how noisy the receiver is, and how its performance matches up.

I am delighted to report that we very recently came up with a proof of concept that shows the photonic version to be even more efficient than its electronic counterpart. In fact, it is ten times faster than the electronically powered version, it is very compact in size and the energy required to power it is comparably minimal. This is a huge discovery that I am very excited to take forward.

Once it is set up for implementation, these photonic receivers can be used in all the major data centres, from Google to Facebook. By replacing the huge electronic receivers currently used for these servers with small photonic transmitters and receivers, we will be able to

reduce our collective carbon footprint considerably. It could bring about an environmental revolution within the communications industry.

Taking knowledge home

I now have 3 months left of my Commonwealth Scholarship. In this time, I will be working on documenting and publishing my research, so that other researchers around the world who are also working in this area can use it to build upon their research and collaborate to bring the findings to life. I would also like to bring this research forward through a PhD in order to fabricate a prototype for the photonic receiver, as a compact chip containing lasers that can be rolled out to data centres across the world.

Then I want to return to my home country in order to bring all that I have learned about digital communication technologies back to the laboratories I have worked at in India. I think it is extremely important to pass this knowledge on, especially in the context of my own home country, where climate change is already having a huge impact and making life considerably harder for the farmers where I grew up.

The climate crisis is a global crisis, which means that innovation must reach all its corners so that together we can make a real difference. So, while I have the privilege to be working in a laboratory in the UK that has been building up expertise in digital communication technology for decades, I see it as my responsibility to take this knowledge back to India with me.

CK

Sport for development



The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) was introduced by Kofi Annan in 2001 to coordinate UN efforts promoting sport as a means to achieving development and peace. Cutting across the UN Sustainable Development Goals, sport can play a critical role in international development and is used across a range of interventions, from education and health to peacebuilding and gender equality.

As we celebrate the power of sport through the Commonwealth Games this year, below you can read about the ways in which Commonwealth Alumni are using sport to achieve development impact.

Although the benefits of physical activity on cardiovascular health are widely known, exercise is not promoted as a prevention strategy in Malawi's management guidelines for HIV"



Alice Namanja

2018 & 2021 Commonwealth Scholar

Malawi

MSc Cardiovascular Health and Rehabilitation; PhD Sport, Health and Exercise Science

University of Chester;
University of Hull

Improving health outcomes for HIV and TB patients through exercise

My PhD research explores the role of exercise, education, and counselling in preventing or managing cardiovascular disease amongst HIV patients at the primary and secondary levels of care in Malawi. It builds on my master's project on the impact of cardiac rehabilitation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Patients with HIV and TB face several health risks that can lead to cardiovascular disease. Although the benefits of physical activity on cardiovascular health are widely known, exercise is not promoted as a prevention strategy in Malawi's management guidelines for HIV.

In 2019, I was invited to be the lead consultant for a community based pulmonary rehabilitation project, organised by the National Organisation for Nurses, Paradiso TB Trust, and LHL, a non-profit health organisation. The project targeted clients who were 6-months post-TB treatment but still exhibiting symptoms. I was tasked with designing and piloting the rehabilitation programme in seven low-resource healthcare facilities in two cities, working alongside consultant physiotherapists.

Over a twelve-week period, participants engaged in physical exercise three times per week and at the end of the trial reported significant improvement in their quality of life and symptoms. The project is now being scaled up to provide support for patients with other health complications and will be delivered through primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare. I have been invited to train rehabilitation workers on how to deliver the programme, commencing in 2023.



Jean Pelsler

2012 Commonwealth Shared Scholar

South Africa

MPhil Education

University of Cambridge

Rowing for mental health

In 2019, I launched a year-long mental health awareness campaign on social media, designed to share information about and discuss a range of mental health challenges through sport.

Using the hashtags, #rowforpurpose and #rowformentalhealth, the campaign brought together 41 participants from South Africa, Europe, USA, and Australia to collectively row 40,075 km around the world using rowing machines.

I mapped out the journey, rowing from country to country, and at each planned milestone shared information on mental health, covering topics such as depression, anxiety, OCD, and self-help tips based on scientific research and published literature. The campaign was open to anyone and using social media enabled me to reach a wide audience, contribute to improving mental health literacy, and show solidarity with people who suffer from mental health challenges.

Following the campaign, I have published the research conducted and campaign posts as a free eBook which is available to anyone.



Flacia Nyamu

2004 Commonwealth Professional Fellow

Kenya

Community Service Volunteers



The tournaments provided opportunities for cross and peer-learning and helped raise their self-awareness"

Unlocking the potential of youth through sport

In 2020, I founded Woven Link Africa, a training and consulting business which aims to elevate young people's talents through programmes focused on vocational education, entrepreneurship, and employability. Sport offers a powerful tool to reach out to young people and deliver these aims.

Youth have been particularly negatively impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown through the loss of formal education, social interaction with peers, and opportunities for exercise and sport. To mark the lift on lockdown in 2020, I was invited to coordinate two football tournaments in Nairobi for schoolboys and Diani for football clubs and academies. I wanted to use the tournaments as an opportunity to bring youth together, deliver much needed counselling and psychosocial support, and elevate the quality of football in Kenya.

Working with Bridge Sports Foundation South Africa, which provides support to young people transitioning to university, and Diani Super Club, the tournaments brought together 400 young people from school football clubs and academies. Alongside the fixtures, a network of counsellors and career mentors rolled out a programme of activities addressing life and soft skills development, personal and career goals, active citizenship, and employability skills. Counsellors also provided guidance and support on the ways in which the lockdown had affected young people.

Participants shared that the tournaments provided opportunities for cross and peer-learning and helped raise their self-awareness, as well as providing meaningful opportunities to discuss employability and career planning. Following the success of these tournaments, I am excited to be planning the second series, which will include fixtures for girls' football teams and mixed games.

CK

Scholar events

Leaders in Sustainable Development Programme

With the aim of introducing Scholars to contemporary development issues and enhancing their skills in sustainable development practice and networking, 23 online workshops took place between December 2021 and May 2022, bringing together 300 Scholars in total. We are excited for the next round of workshops to launch in November 2022.

Professional Fellows' Welcome Event

On 28 March, all 29 Professional Fellows from 11 Commonwealth countries came together at Birmingham University for two days of networking, cross-organisation engagement and learning focused on the theme for this year's programme: Girls' Education. This was the first in a series of 6 events bringing the Fellows together during their 3-month stay in the UK.



Professional Fellows' Welcome Event

March 2022



Maximising your Impact training for Master's Scholars

April 2022

Maximising your Impact: training for development workshops at Cumberland Lodge

Held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park in April for Master's Scholars and in May/June for PhD Scholars in their final year, the three-day residential workshops focused on international development issues and offered Scholars from across the Commonwealth the opportunity to connect and communicate their research impact to a wide range of audiences.

Regional Network Events

Since December 2021, the 11 Regional Network Coordinators (RNCs) have organised more than 30 events in their local university regions, including various city tours, workshops, events and picnics. With the help of university representatives, the RNCs also organised a CSC vs Chevening football tournament and other events to commemorate the Commonwealth Games 2022. A huge thank you all RNCs who helped make the CSC community what it is this year!



East Scotland Stonehaven Tour
May 2022



South East Jubilee tour

June 2022



Chevening vs CSC football match

July 2022

Parliamentary Reception for Commonwealth Scholars

In June, 37 Commonwealth Scholars were welcomed to the Palace of Westminster to meet UK Parliamentarians and discuss the importance of democracy within the modern Commonwealth.



Parliamentary reception for Commonwealth Scholars
June 2022



Farewell Event

July 2022

Farewell Event 2022

Over 120 Scholars and an array of special guests came together in July to celebrate the achievements of Commonwealth Scholars and welcome them to the CSC Alumni Community as they begin their development journeys.

Alumni news

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

1963

Angela Swan has been appointed to the Order of Canada for her long-standing contributions to the legal profession, particularly in the area of contract law, as a professor, lawyer, author, and mentor. (Scholar from Canada, BCL, University of Oxford)

1978

Derrick McKoy has been appointed as the Attorney General of Jamaica. He is a former Contractor General of Jamaica and a former Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. In 2016, he was awarded the Order of Distinction for his Outstanding Contribution to the Legal Profession and for Public Service in Jamaica. (Scholar from Jamaica, LL.M Law, University College London)

1994

Asheesh Advani is the CEO of JA Worldwide, which has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. JA has been nominated for its global reach and success in delivering economic empowerment to youth at scale, and its ability to find unity in diversity. JA works to equip all young people with the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities. (Scholar from Canada, Management Studies, University of Oxford)

2001

Denis Kalumba has been awarded the prestigious 2021 South African Gold Medal for his significant contribution to furthering the art and science of geotechnical engineering in South Africa. (Scholar from Uganda, PhD Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Newcastle University)

Jai Shah has been named the winner of the 2022 Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS) Research Excellence Award. Dr Shah is involved in early intervention efforts in the field of schizophrenia, initially in psychosis and now expanding across youth mental health, and has engaged in an array of clinical research projects. (Scholar from Canada, MSc International Health Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science)

2013

Tarik Dixon and his team at Digicel, a Caribbean based mobile phone network, have received the 2022 Esri Special Achievement in GIS award. The award is in recognition of the team's work reducing the digital divide across the Caribbean during the COVID-19 pandemic by utilising GIS to identify those not digitally connected and develop an underground network to improve connectivity. (Scholar from Jamaica, MSc Spatial Planning, University College London)

Sunduzwayo Madise has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malawi. He will play a vital role in supporting the implementation of the University's Strategic Plan 2022-2027. (Scholar from Malawi, PhD Law, University of Warwick)



Denis Kalumba



Tarik Dixon



Sunduzwayo Madise



George Ngwane

2015

George Ngwane has received the 'Promoter of Press Freedom Award' from the University of Buea in recognition of his work with media and government actors to push forward press freedoms and access to information in Cameroon. (Professional Fellow from Cameroon, Minority Rights Group International)



Eucharia Nwaichi

Eucharia Oluchi Nwaichi has received the 2022 Africa Evidence Leadership Award from the Africa Evidence Network (AEN) in recognition of her work generating credible and robust evidence addressing Sustainable Development Goals focused on poverty, health, water and sanitation, climate change, and sustainable cities. The award recognises individuals who have demonstrated innovative and strategic leadership in the field of evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in Africa. (Academic Fellow from Nigeria, Environmental Science, University of Nottingham)



Muhammad Faisal Sharif

Muhammad Faisal Sharif has received the South West Doctoral Training Partnership studentship funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (UKESRC) to pursue a PhD on 'Political Economies of Electricity Market Transformation and Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan' at the University of Bath. (Shared Scholar from Pakistan, MSc New and Renewable Energy, Durham University)



Prince Chiemeka Agwu

2020

Prince Chiemeka Agwu has been appointed as the African Section Editor for Social Work & Social Sciences Review. He is the first African to join the board. (Split-site Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Social Work, University of Dundee and University of Nigeria)

Obituaries

1966

Ronald Hatch was a professor in the English department at the University of British Columbia and ran the publishing house, Ronsdale Press, with his wife Patricia. Ronsdale Press is dedicated to publishing books from across Canada and books of ideas about Canada. He passed away on 25 November 2021. (Scholar from Canada, PhD English, University of Edinburgh)

1978

Thomas Hurd was a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McMaster University and a world leading researcher in financial mathematics. His research focused on mathematical finance and systemic risk, with an emphasis on network models. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he realised that the modelling approach he had developed to analyse the spread of defaults in banking networks was applicable to the analysis of the spread of infectious diseases, and he became a key contributor to the Mathematics for Public Health initiative at the Fields Institute in Toronto. He passed away on 28 April 2022. (Scholar from Canada, DPhil Maths, University of Oxford)

Study UK Alumni Awards 2022

The Study UK Alumni Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni and showcase the impact and value of a UK higher education. Award winners and finalists are leaders in their fields who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities, professions and countries.

We are excited to introduce this year's Commonwealth Alumni finalists and winners.

Science and Sustainability Award

This award recognises alumni who have distinguished themselves through their career and achievements in the world of science and sustainability, and who can demonstrate the impact and scale of their achievements in their profession, and beyond.



Finalist- Mauritius

Mahendra Gooroochurn

2006 Commonwealth Scholar

Mauritius

PhD Mechatronics -
Application in the Medical Field

Loughborough University

Business and Innovation Award

This award recognises alumni who initiate and contribute to innovative or creative new ideas, solutions or business opportunities, that have the potential for growth.



Global finalist- Sub-Saharan Africa

Chima Amadi

2020 Shared Scholar

Nigeria

MSc Global Public Health

Newcastle University



Finalist- Pakistan

Farwa Tassaduq

2011 Shared Scholar

Pakistan

MSc Sustainable Development

University of St Andrews

Social Action Award

This award recognises alumni who have made an exceptional contribution and commitment to creating positive social change and improving the lives of others.



Winner- Nigeria

Mariam Momodu

2014 Shared Scholar

Nigeria

LLM Law

University of Cambridge



Finalist- Pakistan

Irum Shaikh

2017 Shared Scholar

Pakistan

Global Public Health and Policy

Queen Mary University of London

Mahendra is a Senior Lecturer in the Mechanical and Production Engineering Department at the University of Mauritius and a sustainability expert. He has accumulated over three years of industry experience as a research manager and is passionate about building sustainable human habitats which meet the needs of occupants whilst minimising environmental costs.

Chima founded Clemac Digital Health, helping residents of suburban communities in Nigeria to access essential medicines. He has also launched Hspac, a digital platform where patients requiring emergency healthcare are matched with available beds.

Chima is a Mandela Washington Fellow and serves as a Global Lead of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, helping to address the medical access needs of people around the world.

Farwa Tassaduq is the Co-founder of One Earth Toys, a company that manufactures a variety of handmade wooden toys which are child-friendly and an alternative to toxic plastic toys. Through this venture, Farwa is gradually reviving the local toy industry in Pakistan by hiring and training local artisans. Farwa is now planning to export her products and arrange regular skill-based learning opportunities for children in Pakistan.

Mariam is the founder of GetIn Education Consulting, a social enterprise which supports Africans to apply for and gain admission into top educational institutions around the world and access over \$2.5 million in scholarships, regardless of their background. GetIn partners with institutions to promote access to education and has offered free and paid training to over 20,000 people.

In 2019, GetIn launched The Undergraduate Course, a free training opportunity for African undergraduates to learn how to compete globally for educational opportunities.

Irum is a leading global public health policy expert, working with partners around the world to advance reproductive justice by building a resilient abortion and contraception ecosystem using a comprehensive approach across sectors, institutions, and communities. Irum provides expertise and knowledge to the Government of Pakistan to support the development of a quality of care and out-patient department scheme to improve access to quality outpatient services and risk protection for low income individuals in Pakistan.

Alumni events

March 2022-July 2022

Interchange 22



Chair of the CSC, Professor Robin Mason and Commonwealth Alumnus Proscovia Alando presenting at Interchange 22

Between 15 and 16 March, on behalf of the CSC, the British Council delivered a two-day online conference: Interchange 22. The conference brought together over 250 Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni from 46 countries and opened with a welcome from the Chair of the CSC, Professor Robin Mason. This year, the conference focused on two themes: access to public health and climate change.

The two-day programme included skills development workshops alongside panel discussions on the conference themes, where attendees joined dynamic talks between alumni and CSC Commissioners. These were followed by thematic presentations from alumni on their work and impact. Topics ranged from 'Nurse and Midwife Led Wound Management for Low Resource Settings' to 'Lean, green, and clean sciences for climate change issues'.

You can watch introductory videos from this year's alumni presenters on the CSC's YouTube channel through the Interchange 22 playlist.

Canada

The Canadian Association of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows (CACSF) brought together Commonwealth Alumni living and working in Hamilton on 5 June. The alumni present represented those awarded Commonwealth Scholarships funded by the CSC and Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) to study in Canada. Alumni discussed what the Commonwealth should look like in a post-colonial world.

Alumni Community Engagement Fund: Small changes for big impact

Small changes implemented at the community level can lead to big impact over time. The Alumni Community Engagement Fund (ACEF) supports Commonwealth Alumni in delivering engaging activities designed to raise awareness and support individuals in implementing small changes at the community level with the aim of achieving long-term positive impact.

In March, 14 Commonwealth Alumni completed their ACEF activities for 2021/22 on the themes of climate action and girls' education. You can read about their activities on the ACEF section of the CSC website.

In 2022/23, 12 Commonwealth Alumni will be delivering activities addressing this year's themes of clean energy, air and oceans and sport for development. Check out the ACEF webpages and CSC social media channels to find out more about these activities as they are delivered.



'We Can Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change Through Education' ACEF workshop by alumnus Dr Naveen Pandey from India

Development in Action webinar series



March 2022

Public Bike-Sharing Schemes (PBSS): Prospects in Bangladesh

CSC theme: Access, inclusion and opportunity

Commonwealth Alumnus Professor M Shafiq-Ur Rahman presented findings from his winning RIA article, Public bike-sharing schemes (PBSS): Prospects in Bangladesh published in Transport Research Part A: Policy and Practice.

Dr Rahman presented the ways in which his research has been used to implement PBSS in locations in Bangladesh, including at his university, Jahangirnagar University. Dr Rahman also shared insights into his research on PBSS across the world and how PBSS have developed over the years.



April 2022

From Chennai to Coventry: A peace educator's journey into policy

CSC theme: Strengthening global peace, security and governance

Commonwealth Alumnus Kirthi Jayakumar shared her journey navigating a career as a lawyer, a peace educator, a feminist researcher, and a storyteller. She shared her experiences as a Commonwealth Scholar and how acquiring skills through her CSC-funded study in the UK enabled her to enhance her work in gender and peace security in her home country of India and beyond.

Through her webinar, Kirthi explained the challenges she has faced and how she overcame these, the need to be resilient whilst working on gender equality and peace issues, and the importance of working with stakeholders, including men.



May 2022

Mind the Borders: Governing borderless climate risks

CSC theme: Strengthening resilience and response to crises

Commonwealth Alumnus Martin Munene shared his doctoral research examining transboundary adaptation governance in Kenya. Martin discussed the Paris Agreement and the recent Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and what this means for our understanding of the transboundary impacts of climate hazards in Kenya.

Through his webinar, Martin highlighted the growing concerns in policy, the new laws around climate change and adaptation, and the need to understand the local governance structure to implement policies.



June 2022

Inclusive mobility as a service in Lagos, Nigeria

CSC theme: Access, inclusion and opportunity

Commonwealth Alumnus Ejio Matilda Ikoko shared findings from her Master's research and insights from her current PhD on the mobility needs and challenges of vulnerable groups, such as women and visually impaired people. Ejio discussed existing knowledge on mobility concerns across vulnerable groups and highlighted the concept of Mobility as a Service (MaaS) as a solution to make transport accessible and inclusive to all.



July 2022

Machine learning, blockchain technology & sustainable development in Africa

CSC theme: Promoting global prosperity

Commonwealth Alumnus Faithful Onwuegbuche explained the concepts of innovative technologies such as Machine Learning and Blockchain Technology and how these can be utilised in achieving sustainable development across Africa as part of the 4th industrial revolution. He also discussed the different sectors in which these technologies can be used, implementation challenges, and solutions.

Find out about upcoming Development in Action webinars on the CSC Events page.



Get involved

You can stay part of the CSC community through events across the Commonwealth, by promoting our Scholarships and Fellowships to potential applicants, by joining our alumni associations and other networks, and by keeping us up to date with your recent achievements and challenges.

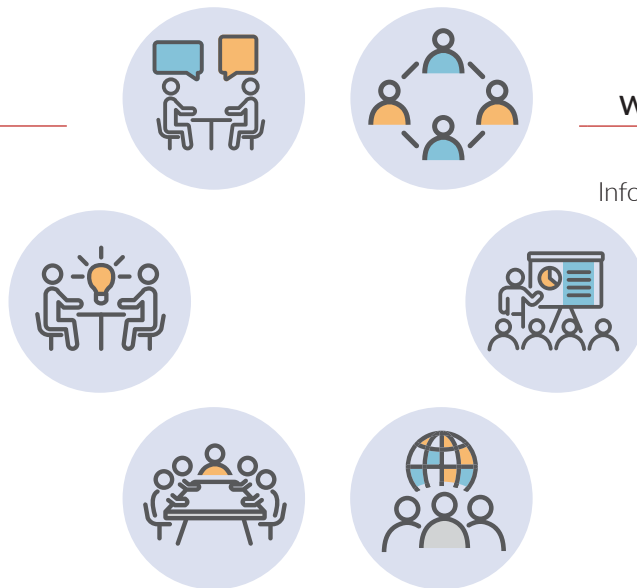
CSC Evaluation and Monitoring Programme

Who we are

The CSC Evaluation & Monitoring team measure the outcomes and impact of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships on individuals and institutions, as well as communities and societies. Alumni are a crucial part of this work, helping us to gather data and evidence about the achievements and experiences of Scholars and alumni.

We gather data through:

- Longitudinal Surveys
- Counterfactual Studies
- Case Studies
- Engaging other perspectives



We communicate evidence by:

- Reporting to funders
- Informing CSC policy and strategy
- Sharing alumni stories
- Publications and reports

How you can get involved

We want to keep in touch after you have completed your Commonwealth Scholarship. To do so, we send out a follow-up survey every two years to enable you to share your recent achievements and challenges. Over a ten-year period, this also allows us to track your experiences over time and to report on the different outcomes and impacts of your activities.

You can also get involved through:



Surveys



Diary Studies



Focus Groups



Research Projects



Interviews



The Alumni Advisory Panel

Your stories and the information you provide are often featured on the CSC website and in a wide range of publications, reports, and presentations, helping you to connect with and share your impact with a variety of audiences both within the UK and across the Commonwealth.

Scan to find out more about the CSC Evaluation and Monitoring Programme



Regional Networks

Regional Network Coordinators organise in-person and virtual events and regional activities across the UK. From workshops on relevant topics to informal sight-seeing and picnics, these get-togethers are a chance for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows in the same university or region within the UK to connect and support one another. The regions represented are:

East Scotland	Midlands
West Scotland	Oxford
North-West England	London
North-East England	Cambridge
Wales	South-West England
Northern Ireland	South-East England

Applications for Regional Network Coordinators will open in September 2022 and information will be shared with Scholars via email.

Scan to find out more about
Regional Networks



Knowledge Hubs

The CSC's 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 under the CSC's six themes:

Science and technology for development
Strengthening health systems and capacity
Promoting global prosperity
Strengthening global peace, security and governance
Strengthening resilience and response to crises
Access, inclusion and opportunity

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

Scan to find out more about
the Knowledge Hubs



Alumni Associations

Meet and network with Commonwealth Alumni through your local alumni association. CSC alumni-run associations are present in the following countries:



Events

Find out about upcoming CSC community events:

@commschols

@commonwealthscholarships

Scan to find
out more about
upcoming events



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

COMMON KNOWLEDGE

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Commonwealth Scholars attending the Farewell Event at Durbar Court in July 2022 and sharing what they hope to achieve as Commonwealth Alumni



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