



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

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Speaking up for good governance

WORKING TOWARDS FAIRER SOCIETIES • COUNTRY PROFILE – SOUTH AFRICA • NEWS ROUND-UP
SCHOLARS' NEWS • ALUMNI IN ACTION • PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

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Commonwealth Scholarships News

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This is the first issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News* in our 50th Anniversary year; it is also my first as the new Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. Professor Trudy Harpham, my predecessor, was an outstanding Chair. Under her leadership, we provided awards to people of the highest calibre from across the Commonwealth, but also diversified our portfolio of scholarships and fellowships, and initiated a formal monitoring and evaluation procedure so that our decision-making is now firmly evidence-based. Her enthusiasm, charm and very considerable energy have ensured that the Commission is in a strong position to face the next 50 years of its work. I am sure that all those very many Scholars, Fellows and alumni who know her, as well as Commissioners and staff in our secretariat and the British Council, will want to join me in thanking her enormously for all that she has done, and wishing her well in her future career.



Tim Unwin Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

In our anniversary year, we are both celebrating past achievements and looking ahead to how Commonwealth Scholarships can help Scholars and their countries meet future challenges. It is therefore apt that this issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News* should focus on the impact made by our Scholars and alumni in areas of governance and capacity building across the Commonwealth. Our award holders and alumni work within government and the civil service, as well as in agencies, NGOs and a range of private and public sector organisations that seek to make a difference to society and to people's lives.

The Commission has recently put in place a new plan for the period 2008-2011, which emphasises that we will focus particularly on three areas of activity: the provision of a diverse range of scholarships to excellent applicants from across the Commonwealth; continuing professional development for mid-career professionals and academics; and capacity development in higher education, particularly in developing Commonwealth countries. We will do so flexibly and in partnership with other organisations working in these fields. We are committed to exploring innovative ways through which we can continue to provide awards to people from richer Commonwealth countries, and are delighted that in the short term the UK's Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has agreed to provide funding in partnership with universities to enable this scheme to continue beyond the cessation of Foreign and Commonwealth Office funding. I look forward with great excitement to my time as Chair of the Commission, and to working with fellow Commissioners and colleagues at the ACU and the British Council, as well as all of our nominating agencies and funding bodies, to carry forward its crucial role, in bringing people together not only to undertake excellent research, but also to use this research for the benefit of some of the poorest and most marginalised communities in the many diverse countries that make up the Commonwealth.

Tim Unwin

Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

© Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom

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NEWS ROUND-UP

FAREWELL TO TRUDY

Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC, bids a fond farewell to our outgoing Chair.

The work of Commissioners has changed much over the past fifty years. Most members of the first Commission were high-level members of the British establishment – most were Lords or knights.

Today's Commission has wider objectives. Members still need to be eminent in their fields, but there are other demands to meet as well. Our awards need to deliver tangible benefits for countries, as well as individuals. Academic quality, too, remains as important as ever. In short, today's Commission needs to be both highly qualified and hands on.

Trudy Harpham has been the model of the 'modern' Commission Chair. Her seven years in the post have seen unparalleled change. As Tim Unwin points out in this issue's editorial, she will be remembered for new programmes designed to bring the benefits of the scheme to new audiences, the introduction of networks and programmes to better involve alumni and award holders, and evaluation systems to measure impact – all unimaginable when Trudy first joined the Commission ten years ago.

All this has combined with rigour, attention to detail, quality, enthusiasm and patience – not least in her wanting to meet every single country group at our annual Welcome Day. Trudy Harpham may well be the most photogenic Commission Chair in history. She has certainly been the most photographed!

Although retiring from the Commission, Trudy's 'day job' as a Professor of Urban Development and Policy will no doubt expand with the extra time that she now has available. The Commission's loss will be the academic community's gain.

NEW AWARDS ADMINISTRATOR

We are delighted to welcome James Ransom, who joined the Commission's secretariat as an Award Administrator in September 2008. Prior to taking up his post, James recently completed a BA in History at University College London.



James Ransom, new Awards Administrator

RESTORATION OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS TO ALL COUNTRIES

Commonwealth Scholarships will be available to citizens of all Commonwealth countries to study in the UK in 2009, thanks to a new partnership between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and individual UK universities.

Scholarships for citizens from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore and the Bahamas appeared to be in danger following a withdrawal of funding by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in March 2008. The new arrangement, to be jointly funded between government and host universities, will ensure that at least sixteen doctoral scholarships will be available for these countries in 2009. Scholarships for developing countries will continue to be supported by the Department for International Development.

70 universities have confirmed their involvement, including the Universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, Nottingham and Oxford, the London School of Economics and University College London. A full list of participating institutions, together with application information, can be found at: www.cscuk.org.uk/2009ScholarshipstodevelopedCommonwealth.asp

Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills

CSC EVALUATION AND MONITORING PROGRAMME



The 2008 Welcome Day also saw the launch of the first published output of the CSC Evaluation Programme – a report focusing on the findings of the 2008 alumni survey. Over 2,200 alumni took the time to respond to

the survey, and the resulting analysis proved both interesting and reassuring. Over 99% reported gaining knowledge in their field of expertise, and 95% that they used the specific skills and knowledge gained in their work. Impact was also found to extend beyond individuals and employing organisations, with 91% of respondents reporting involvement in at least one of twelve sectors representing key development and leadership priorities identified by the Commission. The report can be accessed at www.cscuk.org.uk



WELCOME DAY 2008

The 2008 CSC Welcome Day for newly-arrived Scholars and Fellows was held at Westminster Central Hall on Monday 17 November. This year featured the launch of the Commission's 50th Anniversary celebrations, and the keynote speech was given by David Lammy MP, Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property.

FORTHCOMING ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

20-22 March

Anniversary conference for current award holders: Cumberland Lodge, Windsor

31 March-1 April

'Education in the Commonwealth' event, featuring a lecture, reception and conference, organised by Council for Education in the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Secretariat: University of Oxford

23 April

Reception to launch the second edition of the *Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows*: Marlborough House, London



Professor Trudy Harpham (centre) and Commonwealth Scholars from **New Zealand** at the 2008 Welcome Day

SCHOLARS' NEWS

Governance is increasingly at the centre of debates about international development.

Here, Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows explain why good governance is not only important but necessary for developing and maintaining stable societies.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Commonwealth Scholar William Pallangyo's research focuses on the assessment of the impacts of local government reform. Before joining the PhD programme at the University of Manchester, William was an Assistant Lecturer at the Open University of Tanzania. His research arose from the debates of his students and the gap in local authority capacity literature: 'My study dwells on human resource capacity aspects, a cross-cutting and important element for problematic areas in Tanzanian local government reform, and intends to contribute to the creation of better capacity building approaches in local authorities'.

William feels he has benefited from his time in the UK. 'Apart from academic life, the UK experience has really been wonderful as I have managed to make many friends from different parts of the world. I am looking forward to finishing my programme and continuing my career at the Open University of Tanzania. Hopefully, my students will benefit a lot from the knowledge and skills I have accumulated.'



William Pallangyo,
Commonwealth Scholar from Tanzania

ACCOUNTABILITY OF EXECUTIVE AGENCIES – A FIJIAN PERSPECTIVE

Moses Dakunivosa, a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Birmingham, is completing a PhD on the accountability of executive agencies. 'Agencies acting as arms of government play a crucial part in the way governments manage state affairs today, which raises the issue of how to organise state agencies to ensure they maintain the ethos of primarily serving the interest of citizens.'

Moses' research addresses the challenges faced by agencies, such as 'abuse of trust, mismanagement and unethical and corrupt behaviours. There is a fundamental need to address issues of accountability, which are crucial for ensuring the integrity and responsible behaviour of those holding public office'. His research examines these issues in the Fijian context, shedding light on 'this special relationship which undoubtedly is an important feature of the way the small island nation's government operates today.'



Moses Dakunivosa,
Commonwealth Scholar from Fiji

PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Commonwealth Scholar Alexander Parks is currently in his second year of a Master's of Public Administration (MPA) at the London School of Economics and Political Science. 'I've learned a lot from the course because of some excellent professors and an incredibly diverse range of classmates. I never expected to learn so much about public transport in Colombia, Italian telecommunications policy or the Irish Parliament! The opportunities to learn about public policy have also extended well beyond the classroom.'

Alexander had the chance to work for the Cabinet Office's Strategy Unit over the summer, which was 'very exciting to be at the centre of strategic policy development in Britain'. He places great value on his award, saying that 'meeting other Commonwealth Scholars at university, events and conferences has been a real highlight. I've made some lifelong friends from across the world. I'll know who to call if I need to know about public health policy in Canada, economic development in Kenya or monetary policy back home. In the future, I am looking forward to returning to work for the Australian Public Service.'



Alexander Parks,
Commonwealth Scholar from Australia

Thanks to my Commonwealth Scholarship, I'll be armed with a range of new skills and experiences to help me tackle the exciting challenges that lie ahead.'

E-GOVERNANCE IN KENYA

Commonwealth Scholar James Njihia recently completed a PhD in Information Systems at the University of Warwick, where he researched ICT change in developing countries. 'The research focused on Kenya's e-governance efforts and brought many new insights into explaining change in complex ICT contexts. An important insight was that, for any change to succeed, human needs and values must come first, rather than material or technical efficiency.'

'Kenya's stalled national ICT policy process was revived by civil society organisations, which were able to break the impasse in negotiations between government and the private sector. The study indicated that civil society's 'self-less' role was crucial. Once these three got talking in "one voice", progress was rapid and has resulted in the present vibrant ICT sector in Kenya. My study explains changes in social structures, culture and people necessary to attain this level of agreement and positive change. My experiences will be shared with my colleagues in Kenya and East Africa as I continue teaching at the University of Nairobi.'

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE UK AND INDIA

Himachalam Dasaraju is a Commonwealth Fellow at the University of Essex, and is looking at corporate governance, particularly in relation to fraud. 'The response of society to fraud is reflected in legislative and regulatory changes, investors' demands for better corporate governance practices, and the

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

*In our first issue of 2009, we look to our Anniversary Scholars, **Wilson Prichard** from Canada (Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex) and **Lara de Klerk** from South Africa (University of Edinburgh), who are both carrying out research in the field of governance.*

appointment of committees and commissions to probe various issues and make recommendations. Such committees have been set up in both the UK and India, and I am carrying out a comparative study on corporate governance practices in the two countries in order to better understand those in India.'

Through his Fellowship, Himachalam is 'getting lot of exposure to new research. It is enabling me to enrich my knowledge further in terms of quality and technology developments which are essential for me as a researcher. I will certainly carry back my expertise and knowledge learnt here and share my research skills in the department and the corporate sector for the development of corporate governance practices, which are essential for developing nations such as India'.



Himachalam Dasaraju,
Commonwealth Fellow from India

SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Dr Ben Gaunt, a Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar studying MSc International Primary Health Care at University College London, has set up the Jabulani Rural Health Foundation with colleagues in his home country of South Africa. The foundation is a non-profit organisation supporting the development of Zithulele Hospital and the surrounding community of some 130,000 people, through healthcare support, care for those affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty relief, education, nutrition and advocacy.

SCHOLAR WINS BEST POSTER AWARD

Grace Nabulo (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Heavy Metal Uptake by Vegetable Crops, University of Nottingham) won the best poster presentation award at the 5th International Phytotechnologies Conference (PhytoTech2008), held from 22-25 October 2008 in Nanjing, China.



Grace Nabulo, *Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, with her award*

Two things attracted me to the UK, and to the Institute of Development Studies. The first was an open-minded academic environment that seemed ready to embrace unconventional areas of research and encouraged cross-disciplinary research. The second was the opportunity to study and live in an exceptionally diverse academic environment, alongside students from around the world and with dramatically different experiences and points of view. On both counts, the decision has been vindicated, as I have found the freedom to develop a relatively ambitious, interdisciplinary and exploratory research programme, and have been constantly challenged both academically and personally by my colleagues.

My research deals with the impact of different forms of financing on political accountability, specifically whether the need for governments to raise taxes presents an important avenue through which citizens are able to make demands on the state. While the politics of taxation might sound dull, abstract and lacking in practicality to most people, my research has proven to me that, in fact,

taxation cuts to the very heart of interactions between citizens and their governments.

What is exciting to me about this research is that it raises challenging questions for development. Specifically, if we accept that taxation is a potentially important factor forcing governments to be accountable to citizens, is it possible that foreign aid – an alternative source of revenue – may inadvertently undermine that accountability? This is by no means a condemnation of foreign assistance, but it is a call to continually seek to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the political systems in which donors operate and of the consequent impacts of donors in those systems.

Once I have completed my research, I hope to contribute to that practical debate, and to improving the delivery of aid through greater attention to political context. I also hope to find ways to support the efforts of citizens to organise politically at a grassroots level.

Wilson Prichard

South Africa has established itself as a leading state in Africa in terms of peaceful political transformation, sustained economic stability and active participation in regional renewal. The central roles which democracy and good governance play in furthering the development and security agendas of developing states rely on ensuring the representativeness of elected officials and creating an enabling environment for participatory governance – an open forum where all stakeholders have a voice. While women constitute more than half of the population, their representation in formal decision-making bodies remains very low. The historical subjugation and institutionalised exclusion of women from positions of authority is a universal predicament, and is an ongoing concern in developing states, particularly as gender inequality has been identified as a significant obstacle to the attainment of development goals.

South African women were instrumental in shaping the new constitution. My research explores whether the gains made by this unique opportunity have been consolidated into substantive equality by women in government, focusing on representative



Lara de Klerk, *Commonwealth Anniversary Scholar*

decision-makers in parliament. The key issues to be addressed are whether the active involvement of women in the constitutional reform process changed the manner in which gender mainstreaming strategies are developed and implemented by the state; whether innovative measures have emerged from this unique situation which are relevant to other developing or developed contexts; and the role which parliamentarians play in this process.

At the end of my first year, my overall experience of being a Commonwealth Scholar has been phenomenal. The interaction with scholars from a variety of backgrounds has facilitated the exchange of ideas and perspectives that exemplify what being an international student is all about. The invitation to meet parliamentarians from all over the Commonwealth at the International Parliamentary Governance Seminar in June 2008 provided insight that I would not have been privileged to anywhere else.

Lara de Klerk

WORKING TOWARDS FAIRER SOCIETIES:

THE IMPACT OF ALUMNI IN THE AREA OF GOVERNANCE

Our alumni are making significant and diverse contributions in the field of governance, working to meet the challenges of fairer government and capacity building across the Commonwealth. Whilst some are employed directly by government, the judiciary or the civil service, others are helping to change peoples' lives through working in education, NGOs or the private sector.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN COMMUNITIES

Angelo Amaro (Commonwealth Fellow, University of Northumbria, 2006) is Executive Secretary of Kukumbi, an organisation in Mozambique providing training and assistance to communities in health services, good governance and provision of psychosocial support for people affected by HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence and conflict. Angelo believes that NGOs such as Kukumbi can equip communities to participate more equitably in capacity building within society. Angelo is responsible for the establishment of partnerships at provincial, national and international levels, enforcing internal organisational policy, and designing sustainability strategies and programme and financial management.

SHARING ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Professor Gary Hawke (Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil in Economic History, University of Oxford, 1965-1968) was, until his retirement in July 2008, Head of the School of Government at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The school is not a department of political science, but an interdisciplinary unit charged with making academic skills and knowledge available for understanding the priorities of the public sector. Professor Hawke has participated in government reviews, acting as Convener of the Cabinet Social Equity Committee (1988), the Working Group on Post-compulsory Education and Training in New Zealand (1995), and the Ministerial Review of Applied Social Science Capacity (1998-2000), and was a member of the Superannuation 2000 Task Force.

STRENGTHENING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Milton Lawrence (Commonwealth Scholar, MBA, Cranfield University, 1994-1995) has served on several boards in the private, public and non-profit sectors, and has been involved in presentations on corporate governance to private sector groups. He is



Milton Lawrence,
former Commonwealth Scholar from Dominica

in the process of obtaining international professional accreditation in order to continue promoting good governance in his home country of Dominica and the Eastern Caribbean. He is also CEO of ECIC Holding Ltd, leading the strategic alignment of a group of (currently ten) indigenous banks in the Caribbean in critical areas such as investment, loan syndication, procurement, good governance and extra-regional expansion.

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

Dr Zahurul Karim (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Soil Science, University of Reading, 1974-1977) is Chairman of the Centre for Agriresearch and Sustainable Environment and Entrepreneurship Development (CASEED), in Bangladesh. This involves private sector agricultural research and capacity building for different government and non-government organisations, working on food security, improving the livelihood of the poor and providing strategic advice to government on sustainable development. Dr Karim has worked for 35 years as a senior government manager, professor, researcher and consultant. Among other roles, he has been Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (the apex organisation of the national agricultural research systems), and Director General of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

As Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, he developed poverty alleviation programmes for small farmers designed to benefit 20 million people living in rural poverty.

INCREASING ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

Suresh Munbodh (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Chemical Engineering, University of East Anglia, 1975-1977) was appointed as Secretary to the Commission of Enquiry on Pre-primary and Primary Education and also to the first Education Award Committee following his award and return to Mauritius. Suresh was also the secretary to the committee which proposed the creation of the Tertiary Education Commission, and Project Coordinator for the Lycée Polytechnique, which became the first successful technical education institution in Mauritius. Later, he created and established the Industrial and Vocational Training Board, which became the first institution for the coordination and development of training in Mauritius. Suresh is currently Managing Director of Global Learning, which has established and manages a private tertiary education institution that provides around 25 different courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, using ICT for efficient and effective learning. The institution seeks to make job-related personalised post-secondary education accessible, available and affordable to a much wider population, and has been selected as one of the three best practices using ICT by UNESCO-UNEVOC. He is responsible for the selection of the different career-oriented courses, the



Suresh Munbodh,
former Commonwealth Scholar from Mauritius

accreditation of the institution and its management, as well the recruitment of staff and students.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

John White (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Civil Engineering, University of Cambridge, 1974-1977) is CEO of VC Resources, which owns the rights to energy resources in the state of Victoria, Australia, as well as a portfolio of innovative, low-emission, value-adding technologies. He has driven technology and energy policy and projects that have environmentally sustainable outcomes, and has developed major infrastructure and manufacturing projects that have been technology-intensive and innovative, creating significant high-skilled long-term employment of a strategic nature.

THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY IN GOVERNANCE

Justice Robert Chambers (Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil in Law, University of Oxford 1975-1978) has been a judge at the Court of Appeal in New Zealand since 2004. He is a member and Chair of the Rules Committee (of all the Superior Courts), a member of the Legislation Advisory Committee, and also a member of the New Zealand Law Society New Legislation Committee.

LEGAL PROVISION IN GOVERNMENT

Taruna McLean (Commonwealth Scholar, LL.M., University of Cambridge, 2006-2007) is Research Assistant to the Solicitor General of the state of South Australia, assisting the Solicitor General in providing legal advice to the state government, and in representing the state government as counsel in the High Court of Australia and various state courts.

IMPROVING TRANSPORT SAFETY

Kym Bills (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Development Economics, University of Oxford,



***Kym Bills**, former Commonwealth Scholar from Australia*

1981-1984) is currently Executive Director of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB). He has been a public servant in a range of departments since 1978, and has also lectured in economics and acted as a senior adviser to four Leaders of the Opposition in South Australia and nationally. Kym has been the Executive Director of the ATSB since establishing its structure and governance in 1999. He manages the investigation of aviation, rail and marine accidents and incidents around Australia, and national aviation safety data and research. Kym was Chairman of the National Road Safety Strategy Panel from 1999-2008, and has also been Chairman of the International Transportation Safety Association.

TACKLING CORRUPTION

Saidu Dumbuya (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Government and Development, University of Birmingham, 2005-2006) is Head of the Monitoring and Compliance Unit of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Sierra Leone, working to alert the public to corruption and implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), through liaison with ministries and organisation and participation in NACS workshops. He has worked on the drafting of the Poverty Reduction and Strategy Paper for the Sierra Leone government, on behalf of the Commission. Saidu is also heading a team monitoring the utilisation of donor funds countrywide, ensuring that the funds are used for their intended purpose as well as providing value for money.

A CAREER IN GOVERNMENT

John Forrest MP (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Fluid Mechanics, University of Aberdeen, 1978-1979)

has been a Member of the Australian House of Representatives since 1993. He has also been Chief Whip for the National Party since 1998.

THE ROLE OF FISCAL PLANNING IN GOOD GOVERNANCE

Philip Kargbo (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Economics and Management of Rural Development, University of Manchester, 2004-2005), has just begun studying for a MPhil in Development Policy and Management at the University of Manchester, also on a Commonwealth Scholarship. Philip had been working as Senior Economist in the Monitoring Research and Planning Department at the National Revenue Authority, Sierra Leone, since his first award. The post involves carrying out research and forecasting on revenue and tax issues and advising on tax and finance-related policies. Philip has participated in the formulation of revenue policies and targets, and in-country programme planning and review meetings held with multilateral donors. He has also helped to develop strategic plans for NGOs, and provided consultancy services in the evaluation of country programme performance. Philip has shared his expertise by teaching postgraduate students of development economics.

AGRICULTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Professor Muhammad Peerally (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Plant Pathology, University of Manchester, 1965-1968) is Chairman of the Road Development Authority (RDA) in Mauritius. The RDA oversees major road and bridge projects, such as the Port Louis Ring Road and Dream Bridge. Professor Peerally has also had a significant impact on agriculture, both nationally and internationally. He was President of the African Academy of Sciences, a peer reviewer of the IAP study, commissioned by Kofi Annan, on agricultural potential and African development, and UNDP Consultant for the creation of the African Biotechnology Centre.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Alumni News

STRENGTHENING FARMS ACROSS AFRICA

Dr Kolawole Adebayo (Commonwealth Split-Site Scholar, PhD in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and University of Reading, 2001-2002) has taken up the post of project manager of an initiative led by the University of Greenwich called 'Cassava: Adding Value for Africa' (C:AVA). Dr Adebayo will be based at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK, on a four-year leave of absence from his home institution of Abeokuta from April 2008.

C:AVA is supported with a grant of USD 13.1 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The project seeks to increase the income of about 90,000 small farmers from Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania over a four-year period by increasing opportunities for them to benefit from the high quality cassava flour (HQCF) value chain.

Dr Adebayo values the impact this new role offers: 'My work with C:AVA is an opportunity to contribute to bringing people who may otherwise have been overlooked into an emerging market for HQCF. Getting this job is made easier by the training I received at the University of Reading while on the Commonwealth Scholarship. For this, I am eternally grateful.'



Dr Kolawole Adebayo (l) with Professor Andrew Westby, at the National Resources Institute

DISTANCE LEARNING SCHOLARS' GRADUATION CEREMONY

On 25 April 2008, Leeds Metropolitan University celebrated with the Chainama College of Health Sciences at the graduation of the first cohort of CSC Distance Learning Scholars from the MSc Public Health (Health Promotion and Environmental Health) in Zambia. 18 students graduated in total; two of these achieved distinctions. The Vice-Chancellor of Leeds Metropolitan University, Professor Simon Lee, and the Dean of the Faculty of Health, Richard Hogston, enjoyed their first visit to Africa with members of the teaching team. They met



CSC Distance Learning Scholars' graduation ceremony in Zambia

the students and staff of Chainama, took part in the graduation ceremony, and demonstrated the university's ongoing support for the course. A plaque was also unveiled, acknowledging the gift of computers for student use donated by the CSC and Leeds Metropolitan.

Alumni events

ALUMNI PARTICIPATE IN KENYAN CONFERENCE

A number of former Commonwealth Scholars were involved in a conference held in Nairobi, Kenya from 18-20 September 2008, on strengthening social sciences and humanities research in African universities. The conference was jointly convened by the British Academy and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and brought together a group of academics, research councils and funding agencies from across Africa and the UK.

Some of our Kenyan alumni working in local universities also joined the group for a small reception on 19 September, and had the opportunity to meet the CSC's Executive Secretary, Dr John Kirkland, and Professor William Stephens, Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner.



Kenyan alumni with Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner **Professor William Stephens** (far left) and Executive Secretary **Dr John Kirkland** (far right) at a joint ACU-British Academy conference in Nairobi

In brief

AWARDS AND CAREER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr Catherine M Kamindo (Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD in Education Management, University of Durham, 2005-2008) has been appointed the Deputy Director in charge of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation at the Kenya Institute of Education, the national centre for curriculum development and educational research in Kenya.

Natasha Khan (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Social Policy, University of Wales, Swansea, 2006-2007) has been given an opportunity to pursue her interest in transitional justice through securing the Gavron

Scholarship to start her PhD in 2008 at the University of York, UK, focusing on 'Utilizing Transitional Justice Strategies to Break the Cycle of Coup D'états: an in-depth study of Fiji'.

Saeed Ullah Khan (Commonwealth Scholar, MA Development Economics, University of Sussex, 2002-2003) has been appointed Regional Technical Advisor for youth and livelihoods programmes for the US-based NGO International Rescue Committee, specifically covering the Asian and Caucasus regions.

Dr Sajal Nag (Commonwealth Fellow, School of Geography, Queen's University Belfast, 2004) has recently held the 2008 Charles Wallace Fellowship at the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, UK. Work from Dr Nag's fellowship has now been published, entitled 'Pied Pipers in North East India: Bamboo Flowers, Rat Famine and the Politics of Philanthropy 1881-2007'.

Professor Rohan Rajapakse (Commonwealth Fellow, University of Reading, 1992-1993) has been appointed Executive Director of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy. Professor Rajapakse is also a member of the University Grants Commission, and was recently elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Sri Lanka.

Dr Kate Schick (Commonwealth Scholar, MLitt in International Security Studies, University of St Andrews, 2003-2004) finished her PhD at the University of St Andrews in June 2008, and has been undertaking an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at the university since July. In February 2009, she will take up a post as Lecturer in International Relations at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Keep in touch

Please keep us informed of your news, such as significant research, new senior appointment, major publication or national honour or award. We also welcome feedback on any aspect of this publication. You can get in touch by emailing comments@cscuk.org.uk or you can write to:

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We appreciate all your feedback and contributions, although it may not always be possible for us to include all your news, due to the amount of space available on these pages.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Governance is an area in which many of our alumni have been able to have wide-reaching impact. Here, Dr Julius Sandy explains how his Commonwealth Scholarship not only furthered his own career, but was also of vital importance to strengthening government structures in his home country following years of civil war.

Dr Julius Sandy was a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Birmingham from 2000-2003, and studied for a PhD in Public Policy. He has recently been appointed Director of the Government of Sierra Leone Public Sector Reform Unit.

Julius' Commonwealth Scholarship was awarded mid-career, and had a tremendous impact: 'It is arguably the most important thing that happened to me in both my professional and academic career. It came at the middle of my career and at a time I and the entire civil service of my country needed it most'. Julius had started his career in the charitable sector before moving into the civil service prior to holding his award. He then went on to become Senior Assistant Secretary to the President and Head of Civil Service Reform, then Establishment Secretary, responsible for the day-to-day management of the civil service, then Executive Director of the Human Resource Management Office.

Julius was the first civil service administrative officer from Sierra Leone to be awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship for a PhD programme. Prior to this, he had been a recipient of joint United Nations/Commonwealth (Management and Training Services Division) funding for a Master's degree in Public Administration and Public Policy at the University of York. This course increased his interest in public policy development, and Julius felt that the School of Public Policy at the University of Birmingham was the best choice for his PhD: 'Birmingham was challenging, yet motivating and rewarding'.

USING KNOWLEDGE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

Julius believes that his PhD course came at the right time both for himself and for his home country, Sierra Leone. 'We had been at war since 1991. The flight of human capital was evident everywhere. The civil service was particularly severely incapacitated. Some of our colleagues abandoned



Dr Julius Sandy, former Commonwealth Scholar from Sierra Leone

the civil service, because it was not attractive anymore. Working with NGOs was, by their own standards, most rewarding.'

Julius believes that the CSC, with its alumni spread across so many countries, has an important function in facilitating capacity building throughout the Commonwealth.

The lack of specialists in the areas of public administration, public policy and development studies was a critical concern at the time of his return home in 2004, and Julius' first posting was at the Office of the President, in the Policy Division. 'My contribution was recognised, and I was appointed Senior Assistant Secretary to the President and Head of Governance and Policy Unit – later Head of Civil Service Reform.'

The PhD also had a wider impact on his colleagues, as Julius was able to motivate them to pursue

further studies. He was also able to pass on his new skills, as for a few years he provided voluntary teaching and supervisory services at the University of Sierra Leone, teaching public policy and related courses to postgraduate students on development administration and public policy programmes.

THE CHALLENGES OF HIS CAREER

The main duties of Julius' current post at the Public Sector Reform Unit include the identification of reform needs and opportunities, and the coordinated planning of a high priority reform programme. He also has to provide strategic advice to the president and the government on public sector reform and implementation issues.

As well as working with ministries, departments and agencies engaged in reform activities, Julius also has contact with donor partners, ensuring that their professional inputs and financial resources fit within the priorities established for public sector reform in Sierra Leone. He also represents the Public Sector Reform Unit at high-level meetings and strategic forums.

There is also an evaluative function to his role, as Julius has to ensure that detailed work programmes are resourced realistically, and he participates in formal monitoring and evaluation reviews, especially those required by donor partners to ensure the continued release of resources. Julius supervises the implementation of reform programmes, assessing and reacting to progress, the impact created, problems encountered and any modifications required.

THE ROLE OF THE CSC IN CAPACITY BUILDING

As it celebrates its 50th Anniversary, Julius believes that the CSC, with its alumni spread across so many countries, has an important function in facilitating capacity building throughout the Commonwealth, 'helping to build individuals, communities, institutions and countries'.

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

*Interfaith relations seminar at
Cumberland Lodge, April 2008*



NEW FAITHS AND CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

A new network on Faiths and Civil Society is being launched by the CSC. It grows out of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London, which carries out research on the public role of faiths. The unit recognises a growing interest globally in the role of faiths in civil society, exploring what faiths do in the provision of services, in building community cohesion, and in forms of governance. Many governments have been seeking to capitalise on what they see as the resources that faiths have to offer in a challenging international context. To use the language of 'capital', faiths provide physical, economic, social and cultural capital, all of which can be understood in terms of their contribution to civil society.

It has also been observed that the extent to which governments engage with faiths, and the emphases with which they do so, varies according to wider understandings of the role of civil society. This is determined by factors such as the extent to which welfare economies are mixed, attitudes to the role of the voluntary sector, engagement with communitarianism and community development, and political characteristics concerning the relationship between faith and state, diversity of faith and ethnicity, and contingent contexts such as philosophical culture, collective memories such as 9/11 and the Northern Irish 'Troubles', and the relationships between indigenous populations and settlers.

The policies which are emerging regarding public faith across the world reflect these contingencies in their various ways and are indicative of a more general unsettling of the public table. There are many debates and questions here about the public

role of faith in a globalised world in which religion plays a prominent role, for both better and worse.

Key questions include:

- What values, beliefs and creeds are legitimate at the public table?
- Are faiths privileged in civil society through their influence and the structures they bring to bear?
- Where is the boundary between private and public faith?
- What kind of citizenship do faiths exercise or express?
- What part does faith play in identity, particularly as it relates to nationhood and globalisation?
- What kinds of democracy do faiths practice?
- Are faiths amenable to the deliberative and participative practices of civil society?
- Are societies essentially secularised and, if not, how are faith and rationalism reconciled at the public table?
- What do faiths do to promote international relations and community development?

The CSC recognises the significance of these questions across the Commonwealth and beyond. By setting up a Faiths and Civil Society Network, we will provide opportunities for discussion and debate, as well as sharing information of relevance to faith groups, policymakers, practitioners and researchers. There will be a quarterly e-newsletter containing information about events, projects, research and publications. It will also provoke discussion and raise issues within this area and we hope that contributors from across the Commonwealth will participate.

The new Faiths and Civil Society Network is being launched at a seminar at Birkbeck College, University of London, on 17-18 January 2009. The Network is

open to all current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows regardless of their academic disciplines and, unlike other Professional Networks, will provide an opportunity to discuss wider civil society and policy issues surrounding faith.

For further information please contact Dr Adam Dinham, Director of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London at a.dinham@gold.ac.uk. To join the Network, visit www.cscuk.org.uk/professional_networks.asp

NEW LEGAL NETWORK

The Legal Network, which will be launched early in 2009, aims to bring together Scholars interested in addressing contemporary legal issues from diverse perspectives. The goal of the network is to provide participants with details of conferences, research initiatives and key decisions from national and international bodies in such diverse areas of the law as human rights, international criminal law, environmental law, and constitutional law.

The network will be coordinated by Parul Shah, a former Commonwealth Scholar who completed an MSc in International Relations at the London School of Economics in 2003. Parul was recently called to the Bar in Ontario, Canada and is currently working as a Fox Scholar at Middle Temple in London.

We hope that this network will eventually become a forum where participants can discuss and exchange their ideas on issues that are of common interest. We welcome any announcements and ideas that you may have on how to encourage a global dialogue! To sign up to receive the quarterly newsletter and postings from the network, visit www.cscuk.org.uk/professional_networks.asp

COUNTRY PROFILE – SOUTH AFRICA

Since 1999, Higher Education South Africa (HESA) has been the agency responsible for administering the CSFP in South Africa. Here, we take a look at the work of the agency, and some of our alumni – who include Professor Saleem Badat, Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CSFP

South Africans can currently apply for CSFP awards in the UK. Prior to 2005, some awards were taken up in Canada. In 2007, HESA were invited to submit 45 candidates for one-year taught Master's courses, six months' clinical training, three-year doctoral degrees, and one year's research in the UK as part of a split-site doctoral degree registered in South Africa.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applicants currently registered with South African higher educational institutions must apply through that institution. Each of the 23 higher education institutions are notified of the CSFP awards annually, and are invited to make 8 nominations. Awards are also publicised via the British Council, research councils and are advertised in the press and on the web. Those not registered with an institution, or who have gained their existing qualifications overseas, apply direct through HESA.

SELECTION PROCESS

The panel comprises seven members, with four from the higher education sector, one each from the Department of Education and the British Council, and the Chair and Secretary from HESA. The panel uses a grading system for assessment according to the set criteria for selection.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

High academic standards are important, but certain areas are given special consideration due to national shortages of suitably qualified people (e.g. natural sciences). Such prioritisations are not made at the expense of high-achieving candidates from other areas. Also, the nomination process takes into account gender balance and applicants from previously disadvantaged communities.

One challenge HESA faces is working towards an increase in applications from students from designated groups who meet the eligibility criteria. There has been an increase from 14% in 2003 to 31% in 2007, but the aim is to increase this figure further. HESA would also like to see a rise in the number of split-site doctorates, which enable the candidate to remain in their home country for the majority of their degree.



Cape Town, South Africa

ALUMNI PROFILES

Andrew Ainslie was a Commonwealth Scholar studying for a PhD in Anthropology at University College London from 1999-2003. 'The opportunities afforded me by my award were fantastic. I was very fortunate to be able to retain my position as a researcher at the publicly-funded Agricultural Research Council in South Africa, which I resumed after graduating with a promotion to Senior Researcher. I have since moved on to an exciting position as Research Manager at a highly rated NGO, Khanya-African Institute for Community-driven Development, which works with partners in several African countries, notably in the areas of food security and local economic development. The experience gained and contacts made during my award period have been invaluable for enriching my understanding of complex public policy formulation and broader international development issues.'

Patricia Smit was a Commonwealth Scholar at the Institute of Education, University of London, and studied for a PhD in Educational Foundation and Policy Studies from 2002-2006. She is now Head, Research Support, at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. 'The award changed my life – I moved from a position of no formal qualification in education to a position where I can now call myself a generalist in higher education. I am sure that this

redefinition played a role in me securing a permanent job in the Department of Education immediately upon completion of my degree. This job gave me the foundation for my current position, which I am using to broaden my skills base in higher education. I believe that I will eventually return to the Department of Education to shape higher education in South Africa. The award also afforded me with the opportunity to build an extensive permanent network of education resource persons, comprising my peers and academics with whom I interacted at the Institute of Education as well as fellow CSFP alumni.'

Rudolph Raath was a Commonwealth Scholar from 1999-2000, and studied an LLM in International Commercial Arbitration at the University of Edinburgh. He is now a Director at Werksmans Attorneys. 'My studies at Edinburgh definitely opened certain doors for me, securing a position as a candidate attorney at Werksmans, a position I was unlikely to obtain otherwise. My studies in trade law were recognised by the firm and I was introduced to matters where this type of specialisation was required. I have remained in contact with a number of my fellow Edinburgh law students and have had opportunities to refer work to them or to attract referrals for my firm through them.'



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

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

In the UK, awards are funded by the Department for International Development (for developing Commonwealth countries) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in partnership with UK universities (for developed Commonwealth countries).

The CSC makes available seven types of award:

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

The CSC also nominates UK citizens for scholarships to study in other Commonwealth countries under the CSFP. The CSC is a non-departmental public body in its own right, and members are appointed in line with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Commission's secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities; financial management and welfare support is provided by the British Council.

Further details of current provision and selection procedures can be found on the CSC website at www.cscuk.org.uk