

education; and a volume celebrating the implications of education for the lives of Commonwealth women.

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Projects

CEC will continue to sponsor 'Knowledge Aid for Sierra Leone' (KASL) to promote the use and adaptation of Open Education Resources from the Internet for the benefit of secondary schools, by waiving management overheads and mobilising new funding to expand the KASL programme.

2. Report

By the end of the year, CEC will issue a report on the Spring 2009 Conference in Oxford, *Commonwealth Educational Co-operation: looking ahead at 50*.

3. Consultancy

New opportunities for project research and development will be explored.

IV. STRENGTHENING THE CEC

1. Membership

A recruitment drive in the second half of 2009 aims to increase membership to 150 individual and 15 corporate members. Students temporarily in the UK from the Commonwealth, including Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows and Commonwealth-originating diaspora groups resident in the UK, are recognised as two constituencies with potential interest in CEC membership and pro-programmes. Efforts will be made to attract younger members, building on the 2009 Conference in Oxford.

2. Information and communications

Members will periodically receive *Commonwealth Education News* to keep them abreast of relevant activities and events sponsored by CEC and partners. The recently redeveloped and improved *web-site* will be regularly updated.

3. Governance, management and finance

Efforts to redress the age imbalance on the Governing Board will be intensified, following the recent success in achieving a better gender balance.

CEC continues to need assistance in handling its increasing programme of activities and suitable candidates to take on the role of Fund-raiser.

Financial stability

To strengthen its financial base and pump-prime new initiatives, CEC aims to increase its income from membership, donations and activity overheads to at

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Council for Education in the Commonwealth

House of Commons – House of Lords

Three-Year Plan 2009-2012

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Joint Parliamentary Chairpersons: Tim Boswell MP Simon Hughes MP Sally Keeble MP

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The CEC 2009 to 2012

ABOUT THE CEC

1. Purpose

The Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC) is committed to the urgent expansion and improvement of Commonwealth education. It regards the quality of education that the majority of Commonwealth citizens receive as depressingly inadequate, and considers this a continuing affront to the more affluent minority.

The CEC aims to promote more and better education and training for children and adults at all levels across the Commonwealth by:

- a) influencing the agendas, discussions and conclusions of the Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEMs) and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs);
- b) engaging in educational advocacy with UK ministers and Commonwealth governments;
- c) forming partnerships to pursue these agendas in the wider Commonwealth community, especially through High Commissions in London, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and fellow members of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education;
- d) providing a forum for informed discussion and analysis of these issues.

2. Status and Relationships

CEC is a voluntary organisation, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

CEC has formal Commonwealth accreditation, enabling it to be represented at CHOGMs, CCEMs and at associated civil society events.

All Commonwealth High Commissions in London are honorary CEC members.

Parliament

Since its foundation in 1959 the CEC has had enjoyed close links with Parliament in London. Its Patrons are members of the House of Lords and its Parliamentary Chairs are elected members of the House of Commons. Other parliamentary members are drawn from across political parties. A member of the Governing Board serves as CEC's Parliamentary Liaison Officer.

This parliamentary connection gives CEC a unique platform from which to inform educational advocacy across the Commonwealth.

- a) campaign for the development of curricula for in-school and out-of-school learning;
- b) encourage learners to increase awareness of the Commonwealth and identify with its values;
- c) promote the dissemination of relevant materials via the internet and in hard-copy for use in schools and other centres;
- d) encourage its members to launch initiatives at local levels, including activities with Commonwealth diaspora groups;
- e) raise with interested parliamentarians issues about the Commonwealth and the functions and funding of Commonwealth institutions;
- f) seek to persuade the media to give more prominence to Commonwealth affairs;
- g) work to engage active private sector interest and contributions.

In 2009-2010, CEC will campaign for a clear response from the Commonwealth education sector to the recommendations of *Civil paths to peace*, the 2007 Report of the Commission on Respect and Understanding.

II. SPECIAL EVENTS 2009

1. Half century milestones

In 2009 CEC marks its 50th anniversary and that of other Commonwealth educational institutions founded in 1959. It is an occasion for celebrating past Commonwealth achievements in education and for looking ahead to those to come in the future.

2. Anniversary activities

Following the highly successful Oxford Conference in the Spring of 2009, and a strong presence at 17CCEM in Kuala Lumpur, CEC will complete the year with further celebratory activities.

- a) The 10th biennial Conference of the UK Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET), *Policies, politics and progress*, will be held in September, in Oxford. Through CEC, Sir Shridath Ramphal [the longest-serving Secretary-General of the Commonwealth (1975-90)] has agreed to give the opening plenary address to the Conference, at which the CEC will convene a symposium on 50 years of education in the Commonwealth to promote wider knowledge of these issues.
- b) In December, the Annual Gladwyn Lecture, delivered by the Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General Mrs Masire-Mwamba will be followed by a special Parliamentary reception.
- c) CEC is preparing two books to mark its Golden Jubilee: a critical account of its own 50-year record of activity on behalf of Commonwealth

The CEC will continue to mobilise members to maintain its role as a valued and responsive resource for the British Government in matters of education in Commonwealth countries.

High Commissions

CEC will hold regular liaison/briefing meetings with Commonwealth High Commissioners and their Education Officers, and will encourage them to participate in its public meetings.

Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation

CEC will continue to participate substantively in the public consultations, formal and informal, that the Secretariat and Foundation convene on education.

Civil-society partners

CEC will work closely with civil-society groups which have similar aims. In addition to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, it will develop closer links with the Commonwealth Business Council, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Commonwealth Teachers Group, the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Global Campaign for Education.

CEC will link up with kindred bodies in Commonwealth countries to bring coordinated educational advocacy to bear simultaneously on their governments and on the British government.

As a founding member and Secretariat of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education, CEC will promote collaboration and joint initiatives by Commonwealth associations in the education sector.

3. Education about the Commonwealth for all groups of learners

In addition to the Annual Conference and the prestigious Gladwyn Lecture, CEC will continue to hold four or five public meetings a year, at least one of them outside London. All are key vehicles to inform members and a wider public of prominent Commonwealth educational issues.

During 2010 CEC will celebrate 50 years of educational progress since independence in Nigeria, with 2011 the turn of Cyprus, Sierra Leone and Tanzania, and 2012 that of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda.

CEC will consult with concerned partners to prepare a coordinated approach to the implementation of past ministerial recommendations relating to education about the Commonwealth.

Independently and with partners, CEC will also:

The CEC regularly works with other partners, including:

- a) the Commonwealth Secretariat
- b) the Commonwealth Foundation
- c) the Commonwealth of Learning
- d) the Association of Commonwealth Universities
- e) the Commonwealth Consortium for Education and its constituents
- f) the UK Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET)
- g) the Institute of Education (IOE) at the University of London.
- h) the British Council
- i) the Royal Commonwealth Society/Commonwealth Club (RCS).

As a corporate member of CEC, the IOE generously offers individual CEC members free reading rights at its reference Library in Bedford Way, London. The British Council is a long-time collaborator and supporter. . The RCS offers privileged membership rates to CEC members.

3. How the CEC Works

The CEC's main resource is its membership. The CEC is statutorily responsible to its membership through its Annual General Meeting. A periodic newsletter keeps members informed of activities. Members and the wider public are encouraged to visit the CEC web-site: www.cecomm.org.uk. Membership records and subscriptions are managed by the Charities Aid Foundation.

The elected Governing Board is legally responsible for ensuring that the CEC works to achieve its charitable purposes, supported by proper financial administration and effective management. The Board is served by three Committees: Finance and General Purposes; Policy, Strategy and Public Affairs; Programmes, Projects and Communications. Non-Board members may be invited to serve on the two latter Committees. Executive functions are carried out by CEC officers, with support from other Committee members.

CEC income comes from subscriptions (enhanced by Gift Aid), surpluses on events and activities, and occasional paid commissions for the Commonwealth Secretariat and other bodies. The current system has significantly enhanced the CEC's financial position.

THREE-YEAR PLAN 2009 – 2012

The annually updated Three-Year Plan describes CEC's triennial objectives and the activities planned to achieve them. On the recommendation of the AGM, the Board is asked to approve the plan at its next meeting. The Board is responsible for the execution of the Plan, supported by its three Committees and other members, often working in collaboration with likeminded agencies.

I. PLAN PRIORITIES

The Plan for 2009-2012 prioritises three areas of educational activity:

1. The framing of policy to be recommended for adoption by the Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEMs) and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs).
2. The strengthening of CEC links with the British Parliament and Government, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth High Commissions in London to ensure that they continue to bring knowledge and advocacy to bear on policy and action across the Commonwealth.
3. The promotion of education about the Commonwealth and its values among all groups of learners, particularly but not only in the UK.

1. Contributing to CCEM and CHOGM policies:

CEC will focus on three main events during the period 2010-2012: CHOGM in November 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago and then in 2011 at a venue to be announced; and 18CCEM in the Bahamas in 2012.

CEC will participate in the Commonwealth Peoples' Forums that precede the CHOGMs and in any Civil Society Stakeholder Forum associated with 18CCEM.

CEC will continue to advocate close co-operation between Commonwealth countries in pursuit of the following Commonwealth objectives.

- a) Ensuring continued progress towards sustainable universal primary education (UPE).
- b) Developing strategies for implementing universal access to secondary education as a right for all children and an essential development of UPE.
- c) Pursuing policies that emphasise links between levels of education and the importance of secondary, tertiary and lifelong learning in achieving Education for All.
- d) Strengthening and revitalising universities in Commonwealth developing countries, particularly in Africa.

- e) Supporting proposals to strengthen and expand the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, to maintain the coverage of the UK contribution to all member states.
- f) Exploring ways to extend the range of co-operative programmes and exchanges in education between Commonwealth developing countries.
- g) Monitoring opportunities for the international mobility of Commonwealth teachers and students, with special regard to the needs of the poorest and smallest countries and the impact of such mobility on their development.
- h) Identifying ways for governments to enlist civil society support in strengthening local institutions and professional organisations through partnerships and Commonwealth-wide networking.
- i) Supporting the Commonwealth of Learning, especially its work with small states
- j) Expanding provision of Open Education Resources.

2. Strengthening links in the UK

Parliamentary and Government Department links

CEC will extend its relations with the All-Party Parliamentary Groups concerned with Commonwealth countries and their educational development.

CEC will seek to increase parliamentary awareness of education in the Commonwealth, working where appropriate with the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

CEC will seek support from government departments and the wider public for:

- a) the International Education Strategy first issued in 2004 by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and now the responsibility of the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS);
- b) the human development implications of the forthcoming Department for International Development (DFID) White Paper on development and the Department's education strategy paper;
- c) full British engagement in Commonwealth Scholarship and other education programmes and generous contributions to budgets supporting Commonwealth education co-operation and interchange;
- d) the public interest work of the British Council and the BBC in international education;
- e) the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum's move from Bristol to London.