



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH
2008/09

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I INTRODUCTION TO THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2008 – 31 MARCH 2009

This report of the work of the CPA UK Branch (CPA UK) covers the 15-month period 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2009 and from now on CPA UK's reporting year will coincide with the financial year. It is also the first annual report written under the new funding arrangements which came into effect from 1 April 2008. From that date CPA UK and the other three Parliamentary groups – the British-American Parliamentary Group, British Group of the IPU and the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, have been funded 70% by the House of Commons Commission and 30% by the House of Lords House Committee. Following the change in funding from HM Treasury, there has been a subtle and very positive change in relationships with the officials and administration in both Houses. We now are much more part of the Houses of Parliament and thus contribute so much more to the work of international parliamentary outreach.

It has been a hectic, vibrant and enjoyable period which has seen further increases in the output of CPA UK. Work to strengthen parliamentary democracy has continued to grow apace and is highly regarded by CPA colleagues in sister branches across the world, by the FCO and DFID and by the NGOs and Civil Society Organisations with whom we work in this country and abroad. The 15-month period has seen greater innovation in programmes to build capacity in partner parliaments.

The introduction of a project system for the four major annual activities – the 2 two-week seminars and the 2 one-week conferences has proved its worth. The quality of the seminars and conferences has been greatly enhanced and the employment of specialist and temporary staff within the project budgets has made our work more professional, effective and efficient. Each major project is managed by an Assistant Secretary, all of whom have been PRINCE2 project management trained, with a trained Executive Assistant as Assistant Project Manager and 1-3 specialist temporary staff. The project system improves delivery, accountability, transparency and value for money.

CPA UK's activities are reported in the body of the Annual Report, but the three recent activities detailed below and the following section on bilateral delegations give a flavour of the range and quality of CPA UK's output over the past 15 months.

- In February 2009 CPA UK ran an international parliamentary conference on Migration and Human Trafficking for over 40 parliamentarians from Commonwealth and some non-Commonwealth national legislatures. The intense and highly acclaimed 5-day programme included Ministers, academia, experts from NGOs, the close involvement of civil society and a field visit. As is now CPA UK practice, the delegates produced a communiqué calling on their Parliaments to increase their work to hold their Executives to account on commitments made and yet to be made on migration and human trafficking legislation and issues.
- During the Constituency Recess in mid-February 2009, three Members and a Clerk from Westminster conducted a series of exchanges with their colleagues in Kampala over two working days. The programme, long in its gestation, was funded in partnership with the FCO and attracted over 150 Ugandan MPs and Clerks. The success of the exchanges which dealt with the duties of a Speaker, scrutiny and Committee work, relationships between MPs in Parliament and the role of the Whips should not be under-estimated; there was an immediate benefit to the Ugandan Parliament and the CPA UK Members returned full of enthusiasm for the value of such activities in strengthening parliamentary democracy and to them individually in their work at Westminster.
- The 58th Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedures held for over 55 delegates during the first two weeks of March 2009 was the second time that Clerks had attended alongside Members. The CPA UK project team delivered the most professional programme yet which involved Members and Clerks working together and in their separate groups. An acclaimed element of the programme is the visit to Westminster MPs in the constituency and CPA UK is most grateful to its Members for hosting the delegates. This international parliamentary

seminar is regarded as being an extremely desirable part of the professional development of parliamentarians and officials; the 59th Westminster Seminar will include a weeklong programme for Serjeants-at-Arms.

Bilateral inward and outward delegations continue to be important parts of CPA UK's work. The 15-month period has seen a change in bilateral outward delegations to partner parliaments to focus more on learning of the challenges in the particular legislature, capacity building exchanges with parliamentary colleagues and aid effectiveness visits to UK and EU funded projects and programmes. Such visits depend on the support of both the host parliament and the FCO Mission and DFID staff and we value greatly their support. Inward delegations from partner countries have an agreed programme of parliamentary exchanges with Members at Westminster and constituency visits, which are always extremely popular and for which we are most grateful to Members for their generous support.

Activities to strengthen parliamentary democracy are becoming a more important and bigger part of CPA UK's work. Experience has shown that MPs (who having fought elections belong to the same "club") can best deliver particular elements of such work to partner colleagues; CPA UK's unique selling point is to bring together Members, Clerks and Officials from Westminster to provide capacity-building programmes with partner parliaments. Such programmes produce immediate results, are popular and are extremely cost-effective.

The Westminster Consortium (TWC) programme to provide sustainable parliamentary strengthening projects over five years from 2008 for the parliaments of Mozambique and Uganda, Lebanon and the Yemen, and Georgia and the Ukraine is about to commence with the CPA UK-led introductory seminar in Kiev. Members will recall that TWC comprises the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, CPA UK, the House of Commons' Overseas Office, the National Audit Office, the International Bar Association, Cardiff and Essex Universities, and Reuters' Foundation.

It is disappointing to report that although five Members made use of the excellent opportunities for study in Commonwealth countries afforded by the CPA UK Branch Fellowship Scheme in 2007, only three Fellowships were awarded in this 15-month period. It is hoped that this trend will not continue and already a bid from a newly formed APPG is anticipated in 2009/2010.

In the CPA UK Secretariat Modupe Oshikoya returned to the Library and Rachael Varney left. Both undertook maternity cover and Helen Haywood and Ann Hodgkinson have returned from their respective maternity leaves and now job-share, a new way of working for CPA UK. In 2007's report it was stated that Kirsty Jackson had fallen prey to a virus whilst accompanying an outward delegation. She remains unwell and having welcomed Aileen Toal as temporary stand-in, Elspeth Macdonald is covering Kirsty's post until Kirsty returns.

CPA UK could not deliver its successful programme without the enthusiasm and commitment of the team in the Secretariat and a most supportive membership in both Houses and on its Executive Committee.

II MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRANCH

At the end of 2008 the membership figures were as follows: Lords 326 (313), Commons 445 (438), Associates 487 (486), Honorary 20 (20), total membership 1278 (1257).

III FINANCE

Careful husbandry of Branch funds has ensured that the balance between income and expenditure has remained in the Branch's favour.

Using a fund of non-public money originally raised in sponsorship for the 1986 annual conference, the Branch continues to run a fellowship scheme to assist members to visit Commonwealth countries to study specific topics approved by the Executive Committee.

IV PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

The CPA Room has been used extensively throughout the year for meetings, briefings and receptions by All Party Commonwealth Country Groups.

V BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee met on seven occasions during the year: attendance of members against the number of meetings held during the period of service was as follows:

Rt Hon. Lord Anderson of Swansea DL	6/7
Mr John Austin MP (Chairman)	6/7
Rt Hon. Kevin Barron MP	3/4
Mr Hugh Bayley MP	4/7
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP ²	2/4
Mr Peter Bottomley MP	5/7
Ms Lyn Brown MP ¹	1/3
Rt Hon. Malcolm Bruce MP ²	1/4
Sir John Butterfill FRICS MP	4/7
Mr Ben Chapman MP	2/7
Mr David Clelland MP ¹	2/3
Mr Derek Conway TD MP ¹	0/3
Mr Stephen Crabb MP ²	3/4
Mr Jeff Ennis MP	6/7
Mr Nigel Evans MP	3/7
Mrs Cheryl Gillan MP ¹	1/3
Baroness Flather JP DL FRSA ²	3/4
Lord Harrison of Chester ²	3/4
Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE ²	1/4
Miss Kate Hoey MP	4/7
Baroness Hooper CMG ²	3/4
Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP	4/7
Mr Eric Illsley MP	4/7
Professor Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE ²	3/4
Rt Hon. John McFall MP (Vice-Chairman)	6/7
Miss Anne McIntosh MP (Vice-Chairman)	6/7
Mr David Marshall MP ¹	1/3
Rt Hon. Lord Morris of Aberavon KG QC ²	1/4
Baroness Northover (Vice-Chairman)	6/7
Mr James Paice MP ¹	2/3
Mr Bob Russell MP ²	2/4
Ms Christine Russell MP	5/6
Rt Hon. Sir John Stanley MP (Honorary Treasurer)	6/6
Sir Nicholas Winterton DL MP	5/6

¹Up to the AGM on 2 July 2008

²Newly elected at the AGM on 2 July 2008

VI MEETINGS OF THE BRANCH

In addition to the informal daily meetings connected with Parliamentary Seminars and meetings of the Branch Executive Committee, the following receptions and meetings were held in the CPA Room.

7 January 2008	The CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Secretaries dinner
10 January	New Year's party
14 January	A working luncheon with colleagues from CPA HQ
31 January	A briefing meeting for delegates visiting the Falkland Islands
4 February	A meeting of the Education Unit
7 February	A meeting of Mentor UK
13 February	A meeting of Unifem UK
19 February	A visit for students from the Oxford University Foreign Service Programme
20 February	A meeting to report back from the outward delegation to Singapore, Malaysia & Brunei
21 February	A visit form students of the Atlantic Baptist University, Canada
4 March	A meeting of the Ethiopia APPG
12 March	CPA UK Branch and Royal Commonwealth Society joint conference on the future of the Commonwealth
17 March	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Finance, Audit & Remuneration Committee
18 March	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee
18 March	Room used for an evening reception by Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP
20 March	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates visiting Dominica & Montserrat
20 March	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates visiting West Bengal
20 March	Room used by the Curator's Office
25 March	Room used by Westminster Foundation for Democracy
26 March	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Nomination Committee
26 March	A meeting of the Caribbean APPG
31 March	A meeting to discuss Canadian Sealing attended by the Canadian High Commissioner to the UK
31 March	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates attending the British Islands & Mediterranean Regional Conference
1 April	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to the Falkland Islands
1 April	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to Mozambique
2 April	Meetings for visiting Nigerian and Ghanaian Legislators
21 April	Room used by Westminster Foundation for Democracy
21 April	A meeting of the Africa APPG
22 April	Room used by Westminster Foundation for Democracy
22 April	A meeting of Unifem UK
23 April	A meeting between UK Members and visiting Members from Australia
23 April	Room used by Westminster Foundation for Democracy
23 April	A meeting of the Zimbabwe APPG
28 April	Room used by the IPU

30 April	Room used by Anthony Connarty
6 May	A meeting on the CPA UK Branch pension accounts
7 May	Room used by the FCO for visiting Cypriot students
14 May	Room used by the Royal British Legion
19 May	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Finance, Audit & Remuneration Committee
20 May	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to West Bengal
20 May	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee
21 May	Room used by Harry Cohen MP for a press conference with the Dali Lama
3 June	Room used for an evening reception by Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP
6 June	A meeting of The Westminster Consortium
11 June	A visit by the CPA Maharashtra Branch
11 June	A meeting of the Maldives APPG
11 June	A meeting of DfID India sponsored by Ashok Kumar MP
16 June	Room used by Social Affairs Commissioner at the African Union
17 June	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates attending the 54 th CPC, Malaysia
17 June	Room used by the Royal British Legion
24 June	Room used for breakfast prayer meeting sponsored by Jill Pay
24 June	Room used by the Royal British Legion
25 June	A meeting with Canadian interns
25 June	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates visiting St Helena
26 June	Room used by the Overseas Office, House of Commons
30 June	A meeting of the ANZAC APPG
2 July	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates visiting Zambia
2 July	CPA UK Branch AGM
3 July	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Nomination Committee
8 July	A meeting of the South Africa APPG
9 July	A meeting of the Africa APPG
10 July	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates visiting Australia
16 July	A meeting with the Premier of the Turks & Caicos Islands
16 July	Room used by Catch21
21 July	A meeting of the HIV/AIDS APPG
21 July	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee
23 July	Room used by the Royal Africa Society for a visit by the Prime Minister of Kenya
21 August	Room used by DfID
12 September	Room used by the Westminster Consortium
7 October	A meeting of the Zimbabwe APPG
8 October	A meeting of the South Pacific APPG
9 October	Room used by the Overseas Office, House of Commons
9 October	A meeting of the UKOTA APPG
14 October	A meeting of the Falkland Islands APPG
14 October	Room used for visiting members of the States of Guernsey
15 October	Room used for visiting members of the States of Guernsey
15 October	Room used by the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association
20 October	Room used by the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme

20 October	Room used by Conal Gregory
21 October	A meeting of the ANZAC APPG
21 October	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to the 54 th CPC, Malaysia
22 October	Room used for visiting members from Tabara State, Nigeria
22 October	A meeting of the South Pacific APPG
22 October	Room used for visiting members from Mauritius
23 October	Room used for visiting members from Mauritius
23 October	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Finance, Audit & Remuneration Committee
29 October	Room used for visiting members from Tabara State, Nigeria
29 October	A meeting of the Cayman Islands APPG
4 November	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee
5 November	Room used by Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
11 November	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to Tanzania
11 November	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to Malawi
18 November	A meeting of the Caribbean APPG
19 November	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates visiting Kenya
20 November	Room used by the Overseas Office, House of Commons
24 November	Room used by John Collins
25 November	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to Australia
25 November	A meeting of the Trinidad & Tobago APPG
27 November	Room used by The Westminster Consortium
3 December	A reception to mark the State Opening of Parliament
3 December	Room used by the Council for Education in the Commonwealth
8 December	A meeting of the Pacific Islands APPG
9 December	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to Kenya
9 December	Room used by the Overseas Office, House of Commons
9 December	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Finance, Audit & Remuneration Committee
9 December	Room used by the Industry & Parliament Trust
11 December	Room used for visiting members from Kwara State, Nigeria
11 December	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee
12 December	Room used by Catch21
16 December	Room used by Mr Eddie O'Hara MP
18 December	Room used by The Westminster Consortium
13 January 2009	A meeting of the South African APPG
14 January	Briefing meeting for CPA UK Branch delegates visiting St Helena
14 January	Room used by Save our Waterways
15 January	CPA UK Branch New Year's Reception
20 January	Room used for visiting members from Sierra Leone PAC
21 January	Room used for visiting members from Sierra Leone PAC
22 January	Room used for visiting members from Sierra Leone PAC
26 January	Room used by Globe
26 January	Room used by IPT
27 January	A meeting with the Governor of St Helena
27 January	A meeting of the UK Overseas Conservation Forum
28 January	Room used by the Overseas Office
28 January	Room used by the JCSI

29 January	A meeting of The Westminster Consortium
29 January	Briefing meeting for delegates visiting Namibia
29 January	A meeting with the Kenyan Health Minister
3 February	Room used by the Overseas Office
4 February	Room used by the BBC World Service
10 February	Briefing meeting for delegates visiting Zambia
12 February	Room used by Operation Black Vote
20 February	Room used by WFD
23 February	A meeting to report back on the CPA UK Branch delegation to St Helena
24 February	Room used by visiting students from the Oxford University Foreign Service Programme
24 February	A meeting of the Zimbabwe APPG
25 February	A inaugural meeting of the APPG for Women Parliamentarians in the UK, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka
25 February	A meeting of the British Italian Parliamentary Group
26 February	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Nomination Committee
2 March	A welcome reception for delegates attending the Westminster Seminar
3 March	A meeting of the Finance, Audit & Remuneration Committee
4 March	Room used by the BGIPU
4 March	A meeting of the Africa APPG
9 March	A meeting of the Ethiopia APPG
10 March	A meeting of the Women's Rights APPG
11 March	Room used by the Overseas Office
12 March	Room used by the Overseas Office
16 March	A meeting of the AIDS APPG
17 March	A meeting of the Ghana APPG
18 March	Room used by visiting members from Jersey
18 March	A meeting of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee
19 March	A meeting of The Westminster Consortium
24 March	Room used by operation Black Vote
24 March	Room used by the Overseas Office
25 March	A reception for Heads of British Missions overseas
26 March	A meeting of the ANZAC APPG
26 March	A meeting of the Malaysia APPG and British High Commissioner to Malaysia
26 March	A meeting of the Caribbean APPG

VII VISITORS

40 Members of the Commonwealth Parliaments signed the Overseas Members' Register in the Branch Rooms.

VIII GALLERIES

Once again large numbers of Commonwealth visitors were accommodated in the galleries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the officers and staff of the galleries in both Houses.

IX HOSPITALITY

The UK Branch entertained visitors from overseas CPA Branches and High Commissioners to lunch in the House. These include the delegates attending the Branch's Seminars and Conferences. In addition, receptions and meetings were held in the UK Branch Rooms, advertised on the All Party Whip Notice and open to all Branch Members.

X INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE: TACKLING DRUGS CHANGING COMMUNITIES – CHALLENGES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

BACKGROUND

The UK Branch hosted an international parliamentary conference entitled '**Tackling Drugs Changing Communities – Challenges for Parliamentarians**' 3 – 8 February 2008, the first time the CPA UK has addressed this complex yet highly important subject. The conference attracted many eminent Speakers, experts in the field of drug treatment, trafficking, supply reduction, education and prevention. We were particularly pleased to include the participation of Speakers from Latin America, Sweden, Ghana and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime.

DELEGATES

17 countries were represented including 1 non-Commonwealth country, there were 33 delegates which included 4 Observers

Australia - New South Wales	Mrs Jillian <u>Skinner</u> MP
Cameroon	Ms Mary Muyali Boya <u>Meboka</u> MP
Cameroon	Mr Peter Choo <u>Fonso</u> MP
Canada	Ms Patricia <u>Davidson</u> MP
Canada	Mr Derek <u>Lee</u> MP
Gambia	Hon. Sheriff Abba <u>Sanyang</u> MP
Gambia	Hon. Babanding K. K. <u>Daffeh</u> MP
Ghana	Hon. Dr. Ben <u>Kumbour</u> MP
Ghana	Hon. John <u>Agyabeng</u> MP
India	Smt. Panabaka <u>Lakshmi</u> MP (Minister of State, Ministry of Health)
India	Smt. Yashodhara Raje <u>Scindia</u> MP
Jamaica	Hon. Derrick <u>Smith</u> MP (Minister of National Security)
Jamaica	Dr Peter <u>Phillips</u> MP
Mauritius	Hon. Samioullah <u>Lauthan</u> MSK MP
Mauritius	Hon. Ahmed Reza Goolam <u>Issack</u> MP

Namibia	Hon. Theo Vivian <u>Diergaardt</u> MP
Namibia	Hon. McHenry <u>Venaani</u> MP
Nigeria	Hon. Rabe <u>Nasir</u> MP
Nigeria	Hon. Yacoob <u>Alebiosu</u> MP
Northern Ireland	Ms Carol Doherty
Scotland	Ms Margaret <u>Mitchell</u> MSP
Sierra Leone	Hon. Ibrahim <u>Bundu</u> MP
Sierra Leone	Hon. Bintu <u>Myers</u> MP
Sweden	Mr Jan R. <u>Andersson</u> MP
Tanzania	Hon. Raynald O. <u>Mrope</u> MP
Trinidad and Tobago	Minister Mustapha <u>Abdul-Hamid</u> MP (Minister of Public Utilities)
Trinidad and Tobago	Ms Mickela <u>Panday</u> MP
Uganda	Hon. Rose Namayanja MP
Uganda	Hon. Dr. Francis <u>Epetait</u> MP

OBSERVERS

Ghana	Mr Ben <u>Botwe</u>
Jamaica	Sgt. Huntley <u>Brown</u>
Jamaica	Mr Marlon <u>Smith</u>
India	Dr V. Santhosh <u>Kumar</u>

AIM To explore how parliamentarians can hold their Executives to account on the impact of drugs in their communities

OBJECTIVES To:

- Examine the international perspective of drugs (narcotics) and current measures to tackle the problem
- Explore the social and economic impact of drugs in our communities
- Learn about international co-operation and measures to tackle the supply of drugs
- Consider different ways of treating drug dependency

- Examine supply reduction in producing countries (Afghanistan and Latin America)
- Discuss prevention and education for young people
- Invite delegates to:
 - take back a toolkit to assist them in holding their Executives to account on tackling drugs
 - Agree a communiqué to take back to their countries

PROGRAMME

Sunday 3 February – the delegates arrived in the UK and transferred to their accommodation at the City Inn, Westminster.

Monday 4 February – International Perspective, Social Impact and Reducing Supply in Countries of Production and Transit Countries.

The conference began with the opening plenary “Tackling Drugs: An International Perspective and Current Measures” and was followed by “The Social and Economic Implications for Our Communities” which also reflected on how the different faith communities tackle this serious issue. After a buffet lunch the delegates learned about reducing supply production in Afghanistan and Latin America and we were particularly pleased to welcome Mr David Mansfield an Independent Consultant with over 20 years of experience in drugs and development issues and Senor Ricardo Soberon Garrido, an academic consultant on drugs and security from the Amazon region. The afternoon continued with a session examining “Supply Reduction in Transit Countries” and concluded with a reception in the House of Lords by kind permission of the Lord Speaker.

Tuesday 5 February – Visit to London Heathrow Airport, Pharmacia House and DAIS, Drug Treatment Centres, Hounslow.

In the morning we were welcomed at Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs in London Heathrow where we visited their drug detection facilities. The visit included a tour of Terminal 3, the custody cells just outside the airport and briefings from the customs team. Following a buffet lunch the group visited 2 drug treatment centres in Hounslow. The first was an open access centre available to drug misusers and the second offered fully integrated treatment services including prescribing and dispensing treatment, housing advice and educational programmes. After a full day the delegates returned to the hotel for dinner.

Wednesday 6 February – Organised Crime, Tackling the Impact of Drugs in our Communities

The morning sessions tackled “The Link between Drugs and Organised Crime,” “Care and Cure; treating drug misuse” and we were pleased to welcome Hon Kwamena Bartels MP, the Interior Minister for Ghana to discuss how they are tackling the problem of illicit drugs in Ghana. After this the delegates had an opportunity to exchange their views. A buffet lunch ended the morning sessions. The afternoon sessions concentrated on “Breaking the Cycle of Addiction; support within the community” and “Drugs, Crime and Rehabilitation,” which looked at the supply and demand of drugs in UK prisons and rehabilitation. In the evening the delegates were entertained at Inn the Park, St James’ Park with drinks and a formal dinner.

Thursday 7 February – Education and Prevention

The day began with an examination of the role of the Media; how the media portrays drugs and our perception of drug misusers. One of the speakers, a freelance journalist from Jamaica talked about how drugs are portrayed in the Jamaican media. The delegates then learned about the various forms of drug education and prevention both in the UK and abroad and its effectiveness. The first session of the

afternoon focussed on HIV/AIDS in a global context and measures to tackle the link between drug use and HIV/AIDS. After this we were very pleased to welcome a group of young people to talk about the importance of considering young people and their opinions on the best way to speak to them about the dangers of drug misuse. We also heard from 3 grandparents who are bringing up their grandchildren because their children have either died through drug misuse or are unable to look after their own children. They talked about the challenges of becoming parents again as grandparents. Mr Hugh Bayley MP closed the conference, and the Communiqué was agreed by the delegates.

OUTCOMES

All the objectives were achieved throughout the week.

Objective – To examine the international perspective of drugs (narcotics) and current measures to tackle the problem

Our opening plenary successfully achieved this objective. Rt Hon Tony McNulty MP gave an overview of the situation in the UK and collaborative measures with other countries to combat the flow of drugs into the UK. Professor Hamid Ghodse, Former President of the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board, concentrated on the different dimensions of the drug problem across the world, from trafficking flows, to drug production, corruption and organised crime. He examined the history of the drug problem at an international level, International Drug Control Conventions and Treaties and current measures such as working collaboratively and setting international targets to tackle the problem. Mr Tomas Halberg explained what measures had been successful in Sweden to combat the scale of the problem and how this compares with the UK model. In Wednesday's session with the Director General of the Serious Organised Crime Agency the delegates learned about the link between organised crime and drugs across the world. The Hon Kwamena Bartels MP, Minister of the Interior, Ghana, also discussed with us how they are tackling drugs in Ghana, both supply and demand reduction and treatment for drug dependency.

Objective – To explore the social and economic impact of drugs in our communities

This objective was achieved mainly in the second session on Monday, but also during the visit to the drug treatment centres on Tuesday. Professor Neil McKeganey, an expert in drug misuse research, explored how drug misuse accelerates individual breakdown, family breakdown and social breakdown and argued that it was one of the greatest challenges we face today. He focussed on the scale of the problem in the UK and how drug use impacts society as a whole both socially and economically. We then had a representative from the 3 main faith communities to explore how drug misuse impacts on their communities and the ways they tackle the problem. Mr David Partington talked about the growing network of Christian groups across the world who offer drug advice and support for those who are misusing drugs and for families affected by drug misuse; Baroness Warsi discussed how drug misuse affects the Muslim community and explained how the stigma of drug misuse in the community often leads to people keeping quiet about their struggles; and Rabbi Sufrin talked about how "Drugline," the charity of which he is Director, offers help to all communities and in particular he talked about the innovative work the Jewish Community is doing alongside the Muslim community with the setting up of a confidential telephone help line. During the visit to the drug treatment centres a former addict shared with us how his drug misuse affected his whole family, the pressure on them as a result and how the centre has helped him and his family.

Objective – To learn about international co-operation and measures to tackle the supply of drugs

During their visit to London Heathrow the delegates witnessed at first hand the measures used by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to tackle the supply of drugs to the UK. The delegates toured the detection facilities in Terminal 3 and the holding cells where traffickers of illegal substances are detained.

The delegates learned about measures to share immigration information between the UK and other countries to warn of potential drug traffickers entering the UK, visited the operating centre where information is stored and used and also saw the dogs in action in a demonstration identifying an illegal substance carried on someone's person. They also saw highly technical equipment which can detect illegal substances. This equipment has been used successfully at the airports in Ghana and Jamaica to detain suspected traffickers before they board a flight to the UK. At the holding cells it was explained how traffickers are held and the process they undergo until charged. During the session on "Supply Reduction in Transit Countries" the delegates learned in greater detail from Mr Tony Walker and Mr Brian Johnson of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs about the international co-operation between the UK and Jamaica and Ghana, transit countries for cocaine trafficking. This model is due to be put into place in other countries and is a good model for other countries to consider using. Equipment is shared and often funded by the UK and intelligence is shared between countries. In this scenario the UK benefits greatly because it tackles the supply of drugs into this country. However, Ms Olga Heaven, talked to us about how her UK based charity, HIBISCUS works in transit countries to educate about the dangers of drug trafficking. Ms Heaven showed us the excellent work they are doing in Nigeria, Jamaica, and Ghana through their educational and media campaigns. In addition HIBISCUS works with female prisoners in the UK who are serving sentences for drug trafficking offences. They offer support and advice to the women and help to re-integrate them into society once their sentence is over and they return to their own countries.

Objective - Consider different ways of treating drug dependency

This objective was successfully achieved when we considered the various methods of treating drug misuse, breaking the cycle of addiction, the support available within the community and the supply of drugs in prisons and rehabilitation. Harm reduction reduces the harm that drugs cause by managing the drug misuse through offering substitute prescribing and needle exchange services for example. Or you can treat drug misuse by recovery through abstinence. The delegates also learned how important it is to care for those affected by drug misuse, such as family members. We also examined the work being done in prisons to rehabilitate drug misusers. During the visit to the drug treatment centres the delegates learned about measures in the community to treat drug dependency, such as alternative therapies. They met recovering addicts, learned about the centre's needle exchange programme for heroin users and toured the facilities to treat drug dependency.

Objective - Examine supply reduction in producing countries (Afghanistan and Latin America)

We were very pleased to have 2 excellent speakers to achieve this objective. Mr David Mansfield spoke about the problem of heroin production in Afghanistan and the struggle to present alternative livelihoods and Ms Philippa Rogers from the Foreign Office talked about the involvement of the UK in reducing drug supply in Afghanistan. Mr Ricardo Soberon Garrido came from Peru to give us an insight into the production of cocaine in the Amazon region and measures to tackle the supply.

Objective - Discuss prevention and education for young people

Prevention and Education was discussed by a range of speakers. Speakers involved in drugs education showed us measures used in schools in the UK and how to work to prevent the beginning of drug misuse at a young age. A group of young people who have been assembled to be a voice to government, parliament and other organisations came to speak to us about their feelings on how best to educate young people about the dangers of drug taking. We also had the privilege to hear from three grandparents explaining how they have coped losing a child to drug misuse and the challenge of becoming parents again now they are caring for their grandchildren. The global co-ordinator for HIV/AIDS at the United Office for Drugs and Crime explored the link between drug misuse and HIV/AIDS globally and measures they are putting into place across the world to prevent HIV/AIDS through drug use and the educational campaigns they run, particularly in prisons where HIV/AIDS is becoming more and more prevalent. Three representatives from media and broadcasting examined how broadcasting and journalism keeps

society informed on drug related issues and we also heard from the Director of Communications of a large UK drugs charity on how drug reporting in the media can have an adverse affect and can influence our perception of drugs.

Objective - Invite delegates to:

- take back a toolkit to assist them in holding their Executives to account on tackling drugs

CPA UK produced a tool-kit which offered a background guide to tackling the impact of drugs in communities and a guide as to how the parliamentarians attending the conference can hold their Executives to account on the impact of drugs in their communities

- Agree a communiqué to take back to their countries

The parliamentarians from the Commonwealth and other countries agreed the following Communiqué.

COMMUNIQUÉ

FROM THE

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON DRUGS

4-8 FEBRUARY 2008 AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON

1. We, the 29 parliamentarians from Commonwealth and other countries¹ met in London on 4-8 February 2008 for an International Parliamentary Conference on, “*Tackling Drugs, Changing Communities; Challenges for Parliamentarians*”. Our purposes were to learn more about the misuse of drugs, the international illicit drugs trade and their effects on the communities in our constituencies in order to explore how Parliamentarians might work better together nationally, regionally and globally to ensure that proper legislation is enacted to reduce the misuse of drugs and the international illicit drugs trade to enable our communities and constituents to live in safe and healthy environments.

2. We **recognise** the urgent need for co-ordinated global and international action to; reduce drastically both the misuse of drugs and the illicit drugs trade – production, supply, demand and use; share intelligence and detection technology, and for all countries – producers, transit and consumer, to work together to develop more effective interdiction and prevention strategies. We **note, support and welcome** the several United Nations Conventions on Drugs² and **agree to scrutinise and hold our Executives to account** in their commitments to UN and other international agreements to reduce the illicit drugs trade.

3. We **recognise** the inherent danger to; the stability of our countries from the illicit drugs trade and its links with organised crime, and socio-economic challenges; the stability and health of our communities from the misuse of drugs, and **undertake to work to improve** our criminal justice, health and drug strategies in a co-ordinated manner. We **note** that seized criminal assets could be used to fund anti-drugs programmes.

4. We **accept** that we **have special responsibilities to do our best to improve** our social support and health systems working with those in our communities who suffer harm and deprivation as a result of

¹ Australia, Canada, the Cameroons, the Gambia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

² 1961 Single convention on Narcotics Drugs, 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

the misuse of illicit drugs. We **recognise** that more needs to be done to **educate** our constituents, especially the young, to the dangers and harm of drugs misuse, and to **strengthen** our institutions.

5. We **accept** that parliamentarians have a moral responsibility to address the drugs issue. We **recognise** cultural attitudes towards the vulnerable members of our communities; celebrities, the unemployed, women and the young, who become involved with illicit drugs, vary from country to country. We **undertake** to work in our legislatures, with groups within and without our communities and with our constituents to **broaden** the understanding of the challenges involved.

6. We **note** that in 2008, the 10-year review period proposed at the United Nations Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in June 1998, reaches its conclusion. We **urge** our Executives to join all other national governments in Vienna in 2009 to **decide** a way forward for the management of the international drugs control system.

7. We **pledge to work** in our parliaments, with international parliamentary organisations and in our communities to; **reduce** the misuse of drugs and the trade in illicit drugs; **strengthen** our communities and institutions against the dangers of drugs misuse; **educate** our communities about the harm from the consumption and misuse of drugs; **break down** the cultural barriers and misunderstandings of drug misuse in our communities, and to **scrutinise and hold our Executives to account** in their actions and commitments to **reduce** the misuse of drugs and the illicit drugs trade and to **improve** the criminal justice, social support, health and drugs strategies in our countries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members and staff of the CPA UK Branch would like to thank the Speakers for their excellent presentations which prompted such lively and thought-provoking debate. We also acknowledge the valuable contribution of the Chairs and would like to thank all the delegates for their participation and constructive input into all aspects of the programme.

We would also like to thank the Lord Speaker, a committed supporter of the CPA UK Branch and its activities, for kindly hosting the Welcome Reception in the River Room, House of Lords.

The Branch Secretariat is most grateful for the contributions of Members and staff of both Houses of Parliament at the discussion sessions and their support of the Conference's fringe activities.

Particular thanks go to the Clerk of the House of Commons for his support and that of his departmental staff both as contributors and summary writers.

XI 57TH SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES AT WESTMINSTER

The fifty-seventh Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure at Westminster was held 3 – 14 March 2008.

DELEGATES

BRANCH

NAME

ALDERNEY

Mr Richard Willmott

AUSTRALIA:

New South Wales

Hon. Anthony Stewart MP (Deputy Speaker)

South Australia Victoria	Hon. David <u>Ridgway</u> MLC Mr Donato Antonio <u>Nardella</u> MLA
BARBADOS	Hon. Michael Anderson <u>Carrington</u> MP (Speaker)
CANADA:	
Nova Scotia	Hon. Alfie <u>MacLeod</u> (Speaker)
Prince Edward Island	Hon. Speaker Kathleen <u>Casey</u> (Speaker)
CAYMAN ISLANDS	Ms Juliana Y. <u>O'Connor-Connolly</u> JP, MLA
DOMINICA	Hon. Ronald <u>Toulon</u> (Deputy Speaker) Senator Hon. Sabina Anna <u>Williams</u>
GHANA	Hon. Osei <u>Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu</u> (Deputy Majority Leader)
INDIA:	
Arunachal Pradesh	Shri <u>Marde</u> Takar (Hon. Deputy Speaker)
Tamil Nadu	Thiru Kuppusamy <u>Pitchandi</u> MLA
West Bengal	Smt. Kumkum <u>Chakraborty</u> MLA
ISLE OF MAN	Mr Charles Geoffrey <u>Corkish</u> MBE MHK
JAMAICA	Mrs Marisa Dalrymple- <u>Philibert</u> MP (Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives)
JERSEY	Deputy Kevin <u>Lewis</u>
KENYA	Hon. Farah <u>Maalim</u> (Deputy Speaker)
KIRIBATI	Mr Bauro <u>Tongaai</u>
LESOTHO	Mr Serialong <u>Qoo</u> MP
MALAWI	Hon. Mrs Elvy <u>Mtafu</u> MP
MAURITIUS	Hon. Lormus <u>Bundhoo</u> MP (Chief Govt. Whip)
MONTSERRAT	Mr Joseph <u>Farrell</u> MP
NAMIBIA	Hon. Leevi <u>Katoma</u> MP
NEVIS	Mr Hensley Edmenston <u>Daniel</u> MP (Deputy Premier)
NEW ZEALAND	Mr Dave <u>Hereora</u> MP
NIGERIA:	
Federal	Senator Abdulaziz <u>Usman</u> Senator Sahabi <u>Yau</u> Senator Emmanuel <u>Okpede</u> Hon. Sylvester <u>Ogbaga</u> Hon. Ganiyu <u>Olukolu</u> Hon. Isaku Joshua <u>Sharah</u>
Katsina	Hon. Ibrahim Jarmai <u>Mahnta</u>

SOUTH AFRICA Western Cape	Zandisile Christopher <u>Stali</u> MPL (Government Whip)
SRI LANKA	Hon. Mahinda Yapa <u>Abeywardena</u> MP (Minister of Cultural Affairs)
SWAZILAND	Hon. Quinton <u>Zwane</u> MP
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Minister Alicia Maria <u>Hospedales</u> MP (Minister of Social Development)
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	Hon. Ricardo Don-Hue <u>Gardiner</u> (Senior Advisor to Minister of Home Affairs and National Security)
UGANDA	Hon. Prof. Morris Wodamida <u>Ogenga-Latigo</u> (Leader of the Opposition)
ZAMBIA	Mr Yamfwa Dingle <u>Mukanga</u> MP
CLERKS	
BARBADOS	Mr Pedro <u>Eastmond</u> (Deputy Clerk of Parliament)
GHANA	Ms Peace Abla <u>Fiawoyife</u> (Principle Assistant Clerk)
JAMAICA	Mrs Heather <u>Cooke</u> (Clerk to the Houses)
MALAWI	Mr Ollium M. <u>Phiri</u> (Principle Clerk Assistant, Table office of Malawi National Assembly)
MALDIVES	Dr Aly <u>Shameem</u> (Deputy Secretary General of the People's Majlis)
MALTA	Mr Raymond <u>Scicluna</u> (Clerk Assistant to the House)
MAURITIUS	Mr Ram Ranjit <u>Dowlutta</u>
NIGERIA	Mr Basil <u>Ederee</u> (Deputy Director)
NAMIBIA	Mr Samuel <u>Kaxuxuena</u>
SRI LANKA	Ms Priyane <u>Wijesekera</u> (Secretary-General of Parliament)
SWAZILAND	Mr. Ndvuna <u>Dlamini</u> (Clerk at Table)
TANZANIA	Mr Anslem Lyatonga <u>Mrema</u> (Assistant Director of Parliamentary Committees)
UGANDA	Mr Emmanuel <u>Bakwega</u> (Director, Clerks Department)
OBSERVERS	
SOMALILAND	Mudane Abdi Ali <u>Shabel</u> MP Mudane <u>Ahmed</u> Abdi Nur MP

OMAN

Ms. Nahla Al-Kindy (Director of Committee Affairs)

Mr. Hamad Al-Shikaly (Statistical Analyst)

AIM

The aim was to provide a forum at Westminster to discuss comparative parliamentary procedures and best practices in Commonwealth Legislatures

OBJECTIVES

The objectives were:

- To familiarise Seminar delegates with parliamentary practices and procedures at Westminster
- To interact and exchange views with Members and officials at Westminster
- To interact and exchange views with Members from Commonwealth Legislatures
- To visit a UK constituency
- To study the workings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- To mark and celebrate Commonwealth Day

PROGRAMME

Discussion sessions on the following topics were held during the Seminar:

The Political Scene at Westminster
The Parliamentary Scene at Westminster

Tuesday 4 March: the delegates toured the Houses of Parliament in the morning. In the afternoon, after lunch with Members, they looked at the Political and Parliamentary Scenes at Westminster. In the evening they were the guests of the Clerk of the House of Commons at a reception at his residence.

Wednesday 5 March: the delegates had the first of three sessions of 'Delegates Exchange Views' in the morning, followed by a discussion session on the House of the Lords with the Lord Speaker. They later attended Question Time in the House of Commons, including Questions to the Prime Minister. After lunch with Members, they discussed 'The Role of the Leader of the House' and 'Women in Politics and Parliament'. In the evening they were entertained to a reception at No 10 Downing Street by kind permission of the Prime Minister.

Thursday 6 March: the delegates discussed the register of Members' Interests and Standards and Privileges before being briefed on the CPA by the CPA Secretary-General. After lunch with Members, they were briefed on the Role of the Serjeant at Arms and Security and the Role of the Opposition.

Friday 7 March: the delegates visited constituencies in and around London in small groups.

Saturday 8 March: the delegates enjoyed a tour of London.

Monday 10 March (Commonwealth Day): the delegates exchanged views before discussing ‘The UK and the Commonwealth’ with Rt Hon. Lord Malloch-Brown KCMG, Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; they were then briefed on ‘The legislative process’ before lunching with members. In the afternoon, they attended an observance for Commonwealth day at Westminster Abbey in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. In the evening they attended the Commonwealth Secretary-General’s reception at Marlborough House in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

Tuesday 11 March: the delegates discussed Finance in Parliament and the Work of Select Committees. They also discussed the Role of the Speaker of the House of Commons with the Speaker before being received by him at a reception at Speaker’s House. They also discussed the work of the Electoral Commission with the Chairman of the Commission.

Wednesday 12 March: the delegates discussed Climate Change, The Member and the Media, the House of Commons Library and Information Services and Party Discipline in Parliament and Communications between Parties. In the afternoon they joined the conference ‘Making an Impact: The Commonwealth in Parliament and in the Constituencies’ for its final session. In the evening, the delegates dined with Members at Church House.

Thursday 13 March: the delegates visited Marlborough House and were briefed on the Role of the Commonwealth by the Commonwealth Secretary-General. They returned to Westminster afterwards for a final session to exchange views before the presentation of certificates of attendance by the Chairman. They subsequently lunched in the House of Lords and visited the City of London in the afternoon.

OUTCOMES

- To familiarise Seminar delegates with parliamentary practices and procedures at Westminster

The programme of discussion sessions is designed to include a full range of topics relating to Westminster parliamentary practices and procedures of current interest to both parliamentarians and clerks. Opening speakers are selected from the large resource of experts among the Members of the House of Commons, House of Lords and officials of both Houses. Feedback from delegates on all the scheduled discussion sessions was positive in terms of them being useful, relevant and informative.

- To interact and exchange views with Members and officials at Westminster

The Seminar programme is designed to maximise opportunities for the visiting Commonwealth MPs to interact and exchange views with Westminster Members and officials. As well as good representation of Members, Clerks and Officials at the working sessions, they were also represented at all the fringe events. Many delegates particularly remarked on the success of the working lunch format where Commonwealth and Westminster parliamentarians are seated together to maximise discussion opportunities.

- To interact and exchange views with Members from Commonwealth Legislatures

Delegates took full advantage of the opportunity to interact and exchange views both in the formal discussion sessions, including during the specifically designated sessions ‘Delegates Exchange Views’, and informally at the fringe events and during their free time together.

- To visit a UK constituency

Delegates visited a number of constituencies in and around London and saw at first hand the work of an MP at local level.

- To study the workings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Seminar included a session with the Secretary-General and directors of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association during which they gave a presentation on the Association's work, programmes and future direction. Delegates also learned about how the UK Branch's policy and strategy are delivered through its programmes and activities.

- To mark and celebrate Commonwealth Day

The Westminster Seminar is scheduled to coincide with Commonwealth Day so that delegates from across the Commonwealth are united in celebration. On Commonwealth Day (Monday 10 March), delegates attended the Westminster Abbey Observance, a multi-faith, multi-cultural observance attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Head of the Commonwealth, British and Commonwealth dignitaries, diplomats and representatives of Commonwealth organisations. The Queen's Commonwealth Day message, already distributed to delegates, was read out, and there were personal testimonies on the theme of 'The Environment Our Future'. After each testimony and its response everyone joined in making six affirmations underlining the intrinsic values of the Commonwealth. A selection of delegates attended the Secretary-General's Commonwealth Day reception at Marlborough House in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen.

Members of the CPA UK Branch signed and submitted an EDM to mark Commonwealth Day 2008 and to raise awareness among fellow parliamentarians of its theme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members and staff of the CPA UK Branch would like to thank the delegates who participated in the Seminar for their hard work and constructive input into all aspects of the programme.

The two Branch Presidents, the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Speaker, remain committed supporters of the CPA UK Branch and its activities, which was exemplified by their contributions to the Westminster Seminar.

The Branch Secretariat is most grateful for the contributions of Members and staff of both Houses of Parliament at the discussion sessions and their support of the Seminar's fringe activities.

Particular thanks go to the Clerk of the House of Commons for his support and that of his departmental staff both as contributors and summary writers.

The CPA UK Branch would also like to acknowledge the contribution and support of the Commonwealth Secretary-General and the CPA Secretary-General and their respective staff, and the staff of the City of London.

XII INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNANCE SEMINAR

The CPA UK International Parliamentary Governance Seminar took place from Sunday 8 – Friday 20 June 2008. It was attended by 51 delegates and observers from 35 Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth legislatures; for the first time, locally elected representatives from major British cities also participated.

During the course of the two week programme, attendees received a comprehensive overview of governance at all levels – local, national, devolved and supranational. This was attained through briefings from experts and meetings with parliamentarians, in addition to visits to European Union (EU) institutions, the Northern Ireland Assembly and Liverpool City Council.

DELEGATES

<i>Australia - Federal</i>	Mr Russell <u>Broadbent</u> MP
<i>Australia - Tasmania</i>	Hon. Lin <u>Thorp</u> MLC
<i>Australia - Victoria</i>	Mrs Ann <u>Barker</u> MP (Deputy Speaker)
<i>Bangladesh</i>	Mr ABM Nur Uz <u>Zaman</u>
<i>Barbados</i>	Mr Dale <u>Marshall</u> QC MP
<i>Bermuda</i>	Hon. Derrick <u>Burgess</u> JP MP (Minister of Works and Engineering)
<i>Canada - Federal</i>	Senator Hon. Percy <u>Downe</u>
<i>Canada - Manitoba</i>	Mr Kevin <u>Lamoureux</u> MLA
<i>Cayman Islands</i>	Mr Alfonso <u>Wright</u> MLA
<i>Gambia</i>	Hon. Foday Gibani <u>Manka</u> MP
<i>Ghana</i>	Hon. Robert <u>Sarfo-Mensah</u> MP
<i>India - Federal</i>	Mr Suresh <u>Kurup</u> MP
<i>India - Gujarat</i>	Hon. Ashok <u>Bhatt</u> MLA (Speaker)
<i>Jamaica</i>	Mr Franklyn <u>Witter</u> MP
<i>Kenya</i>	Hon. Raphael <u>Letimalo</u> MP
<i>Kiribati</i>	Mr Mikaere <u>Baraniko</u> MP
<i>Lesotho</i>	Hon. Kotiti <u>Diholo</u> MP
<i>Malaysia</i>	Hon. Nasharudin <u>Mat Isa</u> MP
<i>Montserrat</i>	Hon. John <u>Osborne</u> MP
<i>Republic of Namibia</i>	Mr Hafeni <u>Ndemula</u> MP
<i>Nevis</i>	Hon. Robelto <u>Hector</u> MP (Minister of Communications and Agriculture)
<i>New Zealand</i>	Mr Mark <u>Blumsky</u> MP
<i>Nigeria - Ebonyi</i>	Hon. Augustine <u>Nwankwagu</u> MHA (Speaker)
<i>Nigeria - Edo</i>	Hon. Zakawanu <u>Garuba</u> MHA (Speaker)
<i>Nigeria - Kwara</i>	Hon. Babatunde <u>Azeez Mohammed</u> MHA (Deputy Speaker)
<i>Pakistan</i>	Senator Dr Abdul Khaliq <u>Pirzada</u>
<i>Papua New Guinea - Bougainville</i>	Hon. Benedict <u>Pisi</u> MHR
<i>St Helena</i>	Mr Mervyn <u>Yon</u> MLC
<i>Scotland</i>	Mr Iain <u>Smith</u> MSP
<i>Seychelles</i>	Hon. Jennifer <u>Vel</u> MNA
<i>South Africa - KwaZulu Natal</i>	Ms Gloria <u>Swartbooi</u> MPL

<i>South Africa - Limpopo</i>	Mr Jack Lesiba <u>Matlala</u> MPL (Deputy Chief Whip)
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	Hon. Akila Viraj <u>Kariyawasam</u> MP
<i>Swaziland</i>	Senator Isaac <u>Shabangu</u>
<i>Trinidad & Tobago</i>	Hon. Donna <u>Cox</u> MP (Minister of State, Ministry of National Security)
<i>Turks & Caicos Islands</i>	Hon. Ricardo Don-Hue <u>Gardiner</u> MP
<i>Uganda</i>	Hon. Charles <u>Oleny Ojok</u> MP
<i>Zambia</i>	Mr Vincent <u>Mwale</u> MP

OBSERVERS: NON-COMMONWEALTH

<i>Brunei</i>	Hon. Haji Mohd Shafiee <u>Ahmad</u>
<i>Brunei</i>	Pehin Dato Judin <u>Asar</u>
<i>Brunei</i>	Ms Rose Aminah <u>Haji Ismail</u>
<i>Brunei</i>	Hon. Dato Puasa <u>Tudin</u>
<i>Hong Kong</i>	Hon. Alan Kah Kit <u>Leong</u>
<i>Oman</i>	Hon. Dr Fawzia Nasser <u>Al-Farsi</u>
<i>Oman</i>	Hon. Dr Ali <u>Al-Hinai</u>
<i>Rwanda</i>	Hon. Gideon <u>Kayinamura</u> MP
<i>Rwanda</i>	Hon. Faith <u>Mukakalisa</u> MP

OBSERVERS: UK COUNCILLORS

<i>Glasgow City Council</i>	Councillor Hanzala <u>Malik</u>
<i>London Assembly</i>	Ms Jennette <u>Arnold</u> AM
<i>London Assembly</i>	Mr Darren <u>Johnson</u> AM
<i>Manchester City Council</i>	Councillor Afzal <u>Khan</u>

AIM

The aim of the Seminar was to enhance Commonwealth parliamentarians' understanding of governance issues.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives were to:

- Gain an insight into supranational and national governance issues
- Explore the challenges of governance arising out of devolution
- Understand more about governance issues between local and national governments
- Learn more on the relationships between EU and Commonwealth countries
- Discuss governance issues in relation to the work of constituency MPs

- Explore the contribution the CPA can make to a better appreciation of governance issues.

PROGRAMME

Monday 9 June - Westminster

Delegates introduced themselves; lunch with members of the Executive Committee; discussion sessions on what governance is and why it is important, governance at a supranational level, the EU, central and local government relations, and devolution; Lord Speaker's welcome reception.

Tuesday 10 June – Travel to Brussels, European Commission (EC)

On arrival in Brussels, lunch at the EC followed by discussion sessions on the UK's engagement with the European Parliament (EP), the EU approach to governance in development policy and partnerships, EU politics and policy in relation to trade, and governance of EU policies in the fields of education, culture and youth.

Wednesday 11 June – Brussels, EP and Presidential Address, travel to Belfast

Discussion sessions on the role of the MEP, foreign affairs, development, international trade, climate change, the environment and agriculture; Presidential address on the EP in the world today; lunch hosted by Friends of the Commonwealth Group; tour of the EP Chamber.

Thursday 12 June – Belfast, Northern Ireland Assembly

Discussion sessions on power sharing in practice, the role of committees in developing policy and legislation, the benefits of devolution and local government and civil society, from division to a shared future, ensuring equality, and a new beginning for policing; lunch hosted by the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly; tour of East/West Belfast.

Friday 13 June – Travel to Liverpool, Liverpool City Council, visits to MPs' constituencies

Discussion sessions on the European capital of culture and city leadership/governance/finance; lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool with council officials; small group visits to Merseyside constituencies hosted by local MPs; drinks reception and brief talk and visit of the International Slavery Museum.

Saturday 14 June – Liverpool, return to London

Some members of the delegation took a tour of Liverpool Football Club.

Monday 16 June - Westminster

Tour of Houses of Parliament; delegates exchanged views; reception at Speaker's House; lunch with Members; discussion sessions on the CPA, a commonwealth perspective of the EU and commonwealth scholarships.

Tuesday 17 June - Westminster

Discussion sessions on challenges from climate change, gender and governance, the role of a second chamber, legislation and scrutiny work of committees, making parliament work, the role of the media in holding parliament to account, the Electoral Commission and representation, freedom of information and the implications for governance, and accountability and the parliamentary commissioner for standards; lunch with Members.

Wednesday 18 June – Commonwealth Secretariat, PMQs, Guildhall

Visit to Marlborough House for a meeting with the Commonwealth Secretary-General and briefings on the role and work of the Commonwealth Secretariat; questions to the Prime Minister; lunch with Members; discussion sessions on connecting parliament and the people and looking beyond parliament to engage business and civil society; dinner and tour of the Basinghall Gallery at the Guildhall.

Thursday 19 June – London Assembly, Westminster

Visit to the London Assembly with welcome from the Mayor of London; delegates exchanged views; lunch with Members in Cholmondeley Room; summing up, questions arising and presentation of certificates.

Friday 20 June

Tour of London attended by some delegates. Departure day.



Delegates and observers with Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering MEP, President of the European Parliament, Brussels

OUTCOMES

The delegates and observers achieved the aim and objectives of the Seminar.

Objective 1: To gain an insight into supranational and national governance issues

The Head of Information Services Section of the House of Commons, Ms Vaughne Miller, gave the delegation an introduction to governance at supranational level. The First Secretary Constitutional Affairs of the UK Permanent Representation to the EU (UKREP), Paul Heardman, briefed the group on how UKREP engages with the European Parliament. They then spent an afternoon at the EC meeting senior officials who briefed them on the EU's approach to governance in development policy and partnerships, EU politics and policy in relation to trade, and EU policies in the fields of education, culture and youth.

The following day, the delegation went to the EP where they were addressed by the President, Hans-Gert Pöttering MEP. Other fellow MEPs provided briefings on the role of the MEP, foreign affairs, development, international trade, climate change, the environment and agriculture. A lunch was co-hosted by Ioannis Kasoulides MEP and Timothy Kirkhope MEP of the Friends of the Commonwealth Group.

Objective 2: To explore the challenges of governance arising out of devolution

The delegates visited the Northern Ireland Assembly where they met the Speaker and held discussions with Assembly members. Briefings gave the delegation a full and comprehensive insight into the work and role of the Assembly as well as the history of power sharing and devolution. This was considered a most informative visit.

Objective 3: To understand more about governance issues between local and national governments

The delegates travelled to Liverpool and the City Council arranged a morning programme of briefings by councillors and officials informing them on how the council operates. Presentations also expanded on central/local government relationships, including core cities and the development of the city-region model.

The CPA UK is grateful to the city for its kind hospitality which included a lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Steve Rotheram.

Objective 4: To learn more on the relationships between EU and commonwealth countries

Mr John Robertson, PPS to Kim Howells as Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave a presentation on a commonwealth perspective of the EU. These relationships were further addressed in briefings with MEPs at the EC and EP in Brussels

Objective 5: To discuss governance issues in relation to the work of constituency MPs

A key component of the Liverpool programme was an afternoon spent with Westminster MPs from Merseyside. Seven small groups each visited a constituency following a varied itinerary. The delegation greatly appreciated the opportunity to visit a wide range of organisations within the community, including: schools, local councils, regeneration projects, retail/business parks, an old people's home, hospitals, a cultural village, a housing development, etc.

Objective 6: To explore the contribution the CPA can make to a better appreciation of governance issues

High profile speakers, including distinguished individuals from academia (London School of Economics), the media (BBC), the Overseas Development Institute, the Electoral Commission and the Campaign for Freedom of Information as well as senior Westminster parliamentarians gave generously of their time to meet the delegation.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma, and his team provided briefings on the role and work of the Secretariat and delegates were also able to discuss this subject with the CPA Secretary-General, Dr William Shija, at the Lord Speaker's Reception on the first day of the seminar programme.

Mr Boris Johnson, Mayor of London also engaged with the group during their visit to the London Assembly for briefings on how the Assembly functions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CPA UK wishes to thank all participants in the Westminster programme for their support. We are also most grateful to our Brussels hosts at the European Commission and European Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and Liverpool City Council for their invaluable contributions to the programme.

XIII 41ST BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, GIBRALTAR, 12 – 15 MAY 2008

Leader: Mr David Clelland MP

Members: Lord Harrison of Chester
Baroness Hooper
Lord Paul of Marylebone

Regional Secretary: Mr Andrew Tuggey

Secretary: Miss Lucy Moore

All the British Islands and Mediterranean Region branches attended the conference; Alderney, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Malta, Northern Ireland, St Helena, Scotland, the UK and Wales. The conference stated its theme as follows:

International environmental agreements are necessary to ensure that nations meet their responsibilities towards achieving a sustainable future for our planet. These responsibilities are just as important for small territories, but keeping up with these obligations presents challenges given limited size and tight resources.

The Objectives for the conference were:

- To be briefed on Gibraltar's approach to dealing with the effects of climate change
- To explore and discuss what strategies and options can be used by small territories in relation to
 - Energy conservation and generation
 - Tourism and the environment
- To network with Parliamentary colleagues

To hold the Regional Annual General Meeting.

PROGRAMME

The Programme began with a welcome address by President of the CPA Gibraltar Branch, The Hon. H.K. Budhrani QC. The week had a number of sessions addressing the objectives of the conference: 'The Environment and Climate Change'; 'Climate Change and Energy'; 'Waste Management'; 'Eco-Tourism'; 'Biodiversity Conservation', while there were also Workshops on 'Energy Generation'; 'Renewable Energy'; 'Energy Efficiency'; 'Maximising Tourism'; 'Tourism's Impact on the Environment' and 'Tourist Industry Infrastructure' which were reported back to the Conference during the closing session.

The Regional Annual General meeting was held on Wednesday 14 May and was also attended by Mrs Clare Christian MLC (Senior Regional Representative in the Chair); Hon. Haresh K Budhrani QC MP (Speaker and President CPA Gibraltar); Mr Alun Cairns MLA (Regional Representative); Miss Kate Hoey MP (CWP Regional Representative); Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP (Stand-in Regional Representative).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks must go to the staff of the CPA Gibraltar Branch for all their hospitality and all their hard work which made the Conference such a success.

XIV CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: 'INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: SCRUTINISING AID EFFECTIVENESS'

BACKGROUND

The UK hosted an international parliamentary conference 'International Development: Scrutinising Aid Effectiveness' 17 – 21 November.

90 delegates attended. The following Commonwealth countries were represented: Canada, The Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Namibia, Nevis, Pakistan, St Lucia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, together with the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The following non-Commonwealth countries were represented: Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Jordan, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga and the Pan-African Parliament. A delegation of US Legislative Assistants, under the aegis of the British Embassy in Washington, also attended.

AIM

The aim of the Conference was to challenge parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth and the world to hold their respective Executives to account for development funds given, received and allocated

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Conference were to:

- Address the requirement for, and scope of, parliamentary scrutiny of development needs and accountability of funds
- Examine the relationships between parliaments, major multi-lateral and national donors and NGOs
- Examine progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
- Examine the mechanisms for intra-regional scrutiny, e.g. African Peer Mechanism Review
- Address coordination, ownership and alignment of development projects
- Address the role of civil societies in scrutinising parliaments and executives
- Issue a communiqué and formulate a toolkit

PROGRAMME

On Monday 17 November, the delegates were welcomed to the Conference and then introduced themselves formally to each other. They were addressed by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma and then looked at Donor Country Experiences. Following lunch in the Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords as guests of Rt Hon. Lord Anderson of Swansea DL, delegates discussed Partner Country Experiences and progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals. At the end of the day, they were welcomed to a reception in the Attlee Suite by the Lord Speaker, Rt Hon. Baroness Hayman, and the Deputy Chairman Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker, Mrs Sylvia Heal MP, on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

On Tuesday 18 November, the theme was 'The Distribution of Effective Aid'. The morning was taken up with discussion sessions on 'Trade and Aid: Policies that Work', 'Donor Harmonisation (Tanzanian Case)' and 'Assessing In-Country Needs: The Role of Parliamentarians in Formulating Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers'; in the afternoon, the delegates looked at 'Donor and Partner Policy Alignment' and 'The Role of Donor Parliamentarians in Scrutinising Donor Policies'. At the end of the day, the delegates broke down into workshops.

On Wednesday 19 November, the theme was 'Accounting for Aid'. In the morning, the delegates looked at 'The Role of Parliamentarians in Holding the International Financial institutions to Account', 'Accounting for Development Fund Spending: Do Parliamentarians Have a Responsibility?' and 'Mechanisms for Inter-Region Scrutiny'; in the afternoon, they discussed 'Legislative Framework for Controlling Development Spending' and 'Research Capacities and Knowledge Management'. In the evening the conference dinner was held in the City, at Ironmongers Hall.

On Thursday 20 November, the theme was 'Aid Effectiveness in Practice'. In the morning the delegates considered 'The Role of Faith Groups in the Distribution of and Accounting for Aid', 'The Role of Parliaments in Tackling Corruption in Aid' and 'The Role of Civil Society in Aid Effectiveness'; in the afternoon, they looked at 'The Alignment of gender Policy in Aid Architecture'.

Friday 21 November saw the closing sessions: a report back from workshops, an open forum and the closing plenary with the Communiqué and Toolkit.

OUTCOMES

Communiqué

The Conference agreed the following communiqué:

1. **We, the 90 parliamentarians from 41 parliaments and legislatures met at the Houses of Parliament in London on 17-21 November 2008 for a unique conference on “International Development: Scrutinising Aid Effectiveness”. Our purpose was to determine how better we might hold our Executives to account for development funds given, received and allocated.**
2. **We welcome** the initiatives to bring together international legislators from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the G8+5, Regional Parliaments and Small Countries to share experiences, knowledge and develop shared understanding.
3. Following the High Level Forum in Accra in September 2008 and the adoption of the Accra Agenda for Action, **we understand** that although progress is being made towards the 2010 commitments and targets, **we must ensure** that our Executives strive to fulfil their commitments made in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
4. One in four people in the developing world, 1.4 billion people (of whom 70% are women and girls) live on less than US\$1.25 a day. **We consider it vital that aid given and received is used effectively. We believe that effective use of aid is essential** if the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) are to be achieved by 2015. We believe that MDG progress reports should include empirical evidence and translate gender analysis into budget planning.
5. As representatives of 41 parliaments and legislatures, **we strongly urge** our Executives:
 - **To adhere to** promises made in the Paris Declaration – reaffirmed in Accra, **to improve** ownership, alignment, harmonisation, **the managing** for results and mutual accountability as set in the 2010 targets and **to remember** that the purpose of these technical structures is to alleviate poverty for everyone, including women and children
 - **To ensure** that there is **sufficient monitoring and evaluation** of progress towards the targets set in the 2005 Paris Declaration and the MDG, and **effective communication** between the several development partners
 - **To encourage** inter-region links and communications **to share** monitoring and research capabilities
 - **To increase the involvement** of parliamentarians **in policy making and monitoring of aid and the budget process**

- **To promote the participation** of and **communication between** Civil Society Organisations, Faith-Based Organisations and our constituents in development strategies
- **To promote and employ** transparent and accountable practices including gender disaggregated data within international development and aid frameworks
- **To use their best efforts to reduce the administrative costs of aid thus bringing greater benefits to the recipients**
- **To work assiduously to improve the delivery time of aid**

6. In turn we **parliamentarians pledge to:**

- **Initiate legislation** in our respective countries to implement the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action, and **call on our political leadership** to urge implementation of various United Nations conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- **Encourage debate** in our legislative bodies, including **promoting** the formation of international development and overseas aid standing committees, **developing** legislative aid development plans and **strengthening** links between parliaments and legislatures
- **Use our influence and links** with political leaders, citizens and the media **to raise awareness and highlight** the importance of international development, and **to improve aid effectiveness** by **promoting** transparency and open dialogue
- **Fulfil our role** as local development leaders in our constituencies by **advocating** the development needs of our constituents and **encouraging** participation in development initiatives among local governments and communities
- **Undertake an active role** within international development and the scrutiny of aid effectiveness by **formulating** development policies, **forming** effective partnerships with development stakeholders and **assessing** aid effectiveness

7. **Furthermore, we pledge to:**

- **Work for a renewed partnership between donor and partner countries to transform aid and international development policies so that aid given and received is spent effectively and contributes to the alleviation of poverty throughout the world and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals**
- **Urge our Executives to propose that the UN starts discussion towards proposing a UN Convention on Aid Effectiveness**

Toolkit

Delegates were given a toolkit to help them hold their governments to account.

XV INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING, 2 – 7 FEBRUARY 2009

SUMMARY

The CPA UK Branch hosted an international parliamentary conference on ‘**International Migration and Human Trafficking: Maximising Benefits, Overcoming Challenges**’ from 2 – 7 February 2009. This was the first UK Branch Conference addressing these issues of global importance. The conference attracted many distinguished speakers, renowned for their work in the field of migration, human trafficking, human rights and development.

DELEGATES

43 Parliamentarians attended from 26 countries, 3 of which were non-Commonwealth.

<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>NAME</u>
AUSTRALIA	Senator Anne <u>McEwan</u>
CANADA	Hon. Mobina S B <u>Jaffer</u> Hon. Anita Raynell <u>Andreychuk</u>
CYPRUS	Mr Aristos <u>Aristotelous</u> MP Mr Sophocles <u>Fittis</u> MP
THE GAMBIA	Hon. Sainey <u>Mbye</u> MP Hon. Matarr <u>Kujabi</u> MP
GHANA	Hon. Emmanuel <u>Kwasi Bandua</u> MP Hon. Kwame <u>Osei-Prempeh</u> MP (<i>Deputy Attorney General</i>)
GUYANA	Hon. Clement James <u>Rohee</u> MP (<i>Minister of Home Affairs</i>)
JAMAICA	Hon. Robert <u>Montague</u> MP (<i>Minister of State (with responsibility for Local Government) in the Office of the Prime Minister</i>)
LITHUANIA	Ms Vilija <u>Aleknaite-Abramikiene</u> MP
MALAYSIA	Hon. Dr Mohd Puad <u>Zarkashi</u> MP
MALTA	Hon. Dr Michael <u>Falzon</u> MP Hon. Dr Jeffrey <u>Pullicino Orlando</u> MP
MOZAMBIQUE	Hon. Adelina Rosa <u>Bernado</u> MP Hon. Saimone Muhambi <u>Macuiana</u> MP
NAMIBIA	Hon. McHenry <u>Venaani</u> MP Hon. Clara <u>Bohitile</u> MP
NEW ZEALAND	Mr Su'A William <u>Sio</u> MP Dr Jackie <u>Blue</u> MP

NIGERIA	Senator Munirudeen Adekunle <u>Muse</u> SFR Senator Chris <u>Anyanwu</u>
NORTHERN IRELAND	Mr Stephen <u>Moutray</u> MLA
PAKISTAN	Senator Muhammad Abbas <u>Kumaili</u>
ROMANIA	Mr Dumitru <u>Pardau</u> MP Mr Valeriu Stefan <u>Zgonea</u> MP
RWANDA	Hon. Evariste <u>Kalisa</u> MP
SCOTLAND	Mrs Janet Margaret <u>Mitchell</u> MSP Ms Christina <u>McKelvie</u> MSP
SRI LANKA	Hon. Lokugamage Gayantha Ganadesha <u>Karunathilaka</u> MP Hon. Bandula <u>Gunawardane</u> MP (<i>Minister of Trade, Marketing Development, Cooperatives and Consumer Services</i>)
SWAZILAND	Hon. Petros <u>Mavimbela</u> MP
SWEDEN	Mr Kalle <u>Larsson</u> MP Miss Magdalena <u>Streijferrt</u> MP
TANZANIA	Hon. Nuru <u>Bafadhili</u> Hon. Daniel <u>Nsanzugwanko</u>
UGANDA	Miss Jessica Rose <u>Alupo</u> MP Hon. Hassan <u>Fungaroo Kaps</u> MP
WALES	Mrs (Elizabeth) Joyce <u>Watson</u> AM Mr Michael <u>German</u> AM
ZAMBIA	Mr Clever M M <u>Silavwe</u> MP Ms Elizabeth <u>Chitika-Molobeka</u> MP

AIM

To equip Parliamentarians to hold their Executives to account on the challenges of managing migration for the benefit of all and curbing human trafficking.

OBJECTIVES

To:

- Address the breadth of contemporary migration management issues for origin and destination countries
- Explore linkages between migration and development
- Review current migration management approaches and their implications for different categories of migrants

- Explore the links between climate change and migration
- Consider strategies to curb human trafficking and encourage migration that is beneficial to all
- Issue a communiqué and formulate a toolkit

PROGRAMME

Monday 2 February- (Arrival Day) Evening Welcome Reception at the City Inn Hotel (*Due to heavy snowfall affecting road, rail and air travel, many of the delegates did not arrive as scheduled*).

Tuesday 3 February - (Migration Management and National Priorities) Briefing and delegate introductions; Opening plenary: “Contemporary International Migration, Human Trafficking and the Commonwealth”; Plenary: “Migration and Development: Realising Opportunities for Countries of Origin”; Plenary: “Destination Countries: Policy Coherence between Immigration and Development Assistance”; Plenary: “Human Trafficking: A Persistent Problem?”

Wednesday 4 February – (Managing Safer Migration: The Rights of People on the Move)

Plenary: “Protecting People on the Move: Responsibilities and Experiences”; Plenary: “Negotiating Child Migration”; Plenary: “Measures to Curb Human Trafficking: Protecting the Trafficked”; Field visit to the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum, Ladbroke Grove, West London including presentations from migrant community group representatives and a tour of facilities; Group dinner.

Thursday 5 February – (Integration, Policy Making and Preparing for the Future) Plenary: “Integrating Migrant and Settled Communities: Avoiding Conflict”; Workshops: “The Role of Parliamentarians in formulating policies on Migration Management and Development”, “Principles and Priorities to Curb Human Trafficking”, “Principles and Policies to Promote Integration”; Communiqué Workshop; Report back from Workshops; Plenary: “Climate Change and Migration: An Uncertain Future”; Plenary: “Challenges for the Commonwealth: International Migration Trends and Human Trafficking”.

Friday 6 February – (Where do we go from here)? Plenary: Summing up and Matters Arising including distribution of the conference communiqué and toolkit; Closing Plenary, “The Commonwealth of Nations: Partnership for Safer, More Beneficial Migration and Curbing Human Trafficking?”; Farewell lunch in the Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords; Tour of Parliament.

OUTCOMES

Objective - To address the breadth of contemporary migration management issues for origin and destination countries

During the Opening plenary “Contemporary International Migration, Human Trafficking and the Commonwealth” speakers set the scene in terms of introducing the contemporary trends and issues and exploring ways of negotiating divergent interests to find common ground. The two subsequent sessions dealt with migration and development, firstly from the point of view of countries of origin (realising opportunities) and secondly from the perspective of destination countries (reconciling conflicting policy priorities) – although emphasis was placed in both sessions on the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration for both origin and destination countries. Developing policy coherence around migration policies became a core focus of successful migration policy making. The problems resulting from an over-emphasis on categorising migrants was brought to the fore in discussions about protecting migrants, including child migrants, addressing human trafficking and policy making around climate change associated migration.

Objective - To explore linkages between migration and development

The session “Realising Opportunities for Countries of Origin” discussed how migration can contribute to national development considering the role of migrant remittances; breaking down obstacles to the transfer of remittances and the productive use of remittances for the development of SMEs, migrant community projects, private partner investments and providing incentives for stimulating participation in tertiary education. How development stimulates migration rather than reducing it was discussed and there was also reference to how the problem of brain drain can be addressed and mitigated.

Objective- To review current migration management approaches and their implications for different categories of migrants

During the session “Policy Coherence between Immigration and Development Assistance” current UK policy was discussed and one of the speakers spoke of the need for gender sensitising immigration policies. During the session “Protecting People on the Move” the presentations and discussion focussed on how migration management policies affect migrant workers and how gender and religion could shape the migrant experience. The session “Negotiating Child Migration” centred on a discussion about child migrant experience challenging the assumption that independent child migration is trafficking. During the session and workshop “Integrating Migrant and Settled Communities” consideration was given to how migration policy can help to mitigate the negative aspects of immigration and integration for the benefit of migrant and settled communities. During the visit to the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum, delegates heard first hand accounts from Migrant Community Group representatives of their experiences of migrating to the UK. The emphasis on categorising migrants in policy making was called into question in favour of a human rights centred approach to migration policy.

Objective- To explore the links between climate change and migration

A plenary discussion “Climate Change and Migration” considered how the severe environmental effects of climate change can contribute to an increase in migration. The current dominant trend was internal migration - rural to urban, which lead to increased urbanisation and social stresses. How migration can trigger instability and conflict in this context was discussed. The difficulty in identifying and correctly categorising slow onset climate change associated migration outside of rapid onset disaster driven climate change associated migration pointed again to the difficulty and inappropriateness of categorising migrants. The need for policy coherence as the impacts often fell between different areas of responsibility was again highlighted. The need for urgent international agreement around how to address climate change and migration was underlined.

Objective- To consider strategies to curb human trafficking and encourage migration that is beneficial to all

Aspects of Human Trafficking were discussed throughout the Conference. Having established the difficulty in identifying who counts as a ‘victim’ of trafficking, a session entitled “Measures to Curb Human Trafficking: Protecting the Trafficked” considered how the Palermo Protocol on human trafficking could and should be translated into national policy. A Workshop was also held on Principles and Priorities to Curb Human Trafficking and delegates were given the opportunity to compile a list of priority actions tackling vulnerability to human trafficking.

Objective- To issue a communiqué and formulate a toolkit

Both were compiled and distributed to delegates, copies of which are available on the CPA UK website www.cpaukbranch.org. Several delegates shared the communiqué with their national media on return to their home countries.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CPA UK Branch would like to thank all the participants of this conference – both speakers and delegates - for contributing to its value and success. A full programme, summaries of discussions and a number of speaker presentations are published on the CPA UK website.

XVI 58TH SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES AT WESTMINSTER

The Branch hosted 55 delegates at its annual 'Parliamentary Seminar on Practice and Procedures at Westminster' held 1 – 13 March 2009. For the second year running the group of delegates comprised both Members of Parliament (41) and Parliamentary Clerks (14).

DELEGATES

The following delegates attended:

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

COUNTRY	NAME
AUSTRALIA <i>A.C.T</i>	Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
AUSTRALIA NORTHERN <i>TERR'Y</i>	Hon. Jane Aagaard MLA
AUSTRALIA <i>W'TERN AUSTRALIA</i>	Ms Lisa Baker MLA
BARBADOS	Hon. Kenneth Best MP
CANADA MANITOBA	Mr Blaine Pedersen MLA
CANADA <i>QUEBEC</i>	Mr Henri-Francois Gautrin
CANADA SASKATCHEWAN	Mr Glen Hart MLA
GHANA	Hon. Mary Salifu Boforo MP
HONG KONG	Hon. Yu Yan Tommy Cheung MP
INDIA <i>GUJARAT</i>	Mr Ashok Chandulal Bhatt MLA
INDIA <i>HIMACHAL PRADESH</i>	Mr Khimi Ram Sharma MLA
INDIA <i>RAJASTHAN</i>	Hon. Deependra Singh Shekhawat
INDIA <i>UTTARAKHAND</i>	Hon. Harbans Kapoor MLA
JAMAICA	Mrs Natalie Neita Headley MP
KENYA	Hon. Samuel Kazungu Kambi MP
KENYA	Hon. Rachel Wambui Shabesh MP

KIRIBATI	Hon. Teatao Teannaki MP
MALAYSIA	Hon. Masir Kujat MP
MALAYSIA	
<i>SABAH</i>	Hon. Juhar Mahiruddin MLA
MALTA	Hon. Dr Joseph Sammut MP
NEW ZEALAND	Mr Eric Roy MP
NIGERIA	Hon. Kanayo G. B. Oguakwa MP
OMAN	Hon. Rahila Al Riyami MSC
PAKISTAN	Senator Kamran Murtaza
PAKISTAN	
<i>NWFP</i>	Mr. Kiramatullah Khan
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Hon. Francis Marus MP
RWANDA	Mr Gideon Kayinamura MP
RWANDA	Hon. Julienne Uwacu MP
ST LUCIA	Senator Evaristus JN. Marie
SAMOA	Mr Pierre Lauofo Fonotoe MP
SEYCHELLES	Hon. Sandy John Arrisol MNA
SIERRA LEONE	Hon. Claude Danel Melville Kamanda MP
SINGAPORE	Dr Seh Hong Ong MP
SOMALILAND	Hon. Mohamed Haji Mohamoud Omar MP
SRI LANKA	Hon. Unnathi Piyankara Jayaratne MP
SWAZILAND	Hon. Gibson Hlophe MP
TANZANIA	Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid MP
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Senator Wesley George
UGANDA	Hon. Ishaa Amiza Otto MP
ZAMBIA	Mr Brian Macloudine Muleya Ntundu MP
ZANZIBAR	Hon. Pandu Ameir Kificho

CLERKS

COUNTRY	NAME
CANADA	Mrs Beverly Isles
INDIA	Mr P.K. Grover
INDIA	
RAJASTHAN	Mr Hanuman Ram Kuri

MALAWI	Mr Jeffrey Mwenyeheli
MALAWI	Mr Joseph Manzi
MALAYSIA	Mr Bernard Dalinting
SABAH	
NORHERN IRELAND	Mr Kevin Shiels
PAKISTAN	Mr Amjed Pervez Malik
PAKISTAN	Mr Muhammad Khan Mengal
BALOCHISTAN	
SOMALILAND	Mr Mohamed Hassan Kahin Farah
SRI LANKA	Mr Dhammika Kitulgoda
TONGA	Dr Viliami Uasike Latu
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Mr Neil Jaggassar
UGANDA	Mr Richard Ssendege

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Seminar was to explore parliamentary practice and procedures within the Westminster legislature framework.

The objectives of the Seminar were:

- To learn more about accountability and legislation mechanisms (Members of Parliament and Clerks)
- To study the structure, administration and funding of Parliament and the work of its key office holders (Members of Parliament and Clerks)
- To examine methods to represent and engage better with communities (including a constituency visit) (Members of Parliament only)
- To explore contributions parliamentarians can make on the issue of climate change and the global financial crisis (Members of Parliament and Clerks)
- To examine the work of key Clerk offices including the Table Office, the Vote Office, the Journal Office, the Education Unit, Speaker's Counsel, and the Scrutiny Unit (Clerks only)
- To interact and exchange views with Members and officials at Westminster (Members of Parliament and Clerks)
- To mark and celebrate Commonwealth Day (Members of Parliament and Clerks).

PROGRAMME

Monday 2 March

Delegates were given a tour around Westminster and were officially welcomed to the UK Parliament by Baroness Northover, Vice-Chairman of the Branch. They were given a Seminar briefing and introduced

themselves, before embarking on the discussion sessions listed below. At the end of the day, the group was welcomed by Members of the UK Branch at a reception in the CPA Room.

Discussion sessions:

- ***The Westminster Parliamentary System***

Analysis of the Westminster model: historical background; key defining features; UK system in comparison with variations around the world; recent reforms to the UK system.

Professor the Lord Norton of Louth *Conservative; Professor of Government, University of Hull*
Mr Robert Rogers *Clerk of Legislation, House of Commons*

- ***Political Update***

Overview of the main political debates during 2008; current 'hot topics' ; what the big discussions in 2009 are likely to be.

Mr Nigel Evans MP *Conservative*
Miss Kate Hoey MP *Labour*

Tuesday 3 March Delegates took part in six debates on the subjects listed below. In addition, the group was generously hosted for a welcome reception at Speaker's House by Rt Hon. Michael Martin MP and for an evening reception at 3 Parliament Street by Dr Malcolm Jack, Clerk of the House of Commons.

Discussion sessions:

- ***The Speaker***

How the Speaker is elected and his/her impartiality; the role of the Speaker in the Chamber; the role of the Speaker more broadly in Parliament.

Rt Hon. Michael Martin MP *Speaker of the House of Commons*

- ***Bicameralism: The Work of a Second Chamber***

Advantages and disadvantages of a bicameral system; work of the House of Lords and its relationship with the Commons; role of the Lord Speaker; future reforms.

Rt Hon. the Baroness Hayman *Lord Speaker*

- ***Questions***

Different types of questions; how they are tabled; impact of the Freedom of Information Act; the costs and resources involved.

Sir Robert Smith Bt MP *Liberal Democrat; Member, Procedure Committee*
Ms Jacy Sharpe *Principal Clerk, Table Office, House of Commons*

- ***Debates***

The purpose and uses of a debate; different types of debate and procedures involved; opposition days; acceptable Chamber behaviour during a debate.

Rt Hon. Greg Knight MP *Conservative; Chairman, Procedure Committee*
Mr Eric Illsley MP *Labour; Member, Procedure Committee*

- ***Taxation and Public Expenditure: Parliament's Role***

Historical precedents; 'financial privilege' of the Commons and role of the Lords; the budget cycle; the estimates cycle.

Mr Greg Hands MP *Conservative; Member, Finance Bill 2008 Committee*

Lord Wakeham *Conservative, Member, Economic Affairs Sub-Committee on the Finance Bill*

- ***The Role of the Opposition***

The role of opposition parties in Parliament and in scrutinising the Executive; cooperation with Members from other parties; preparing for life in opposition.

Mr Stephen Crabb MP *Conservative; Opposition Whip*

Mr John Barrett MP *Liberal Democrat; Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Work and Pensions*

Wednesday 4 March During the day the group took part in discussions on the subjects listed below and attended a working lunch with UK Members of Parliament. In the evening, the group attended a reception at No. 10 Downing Street where they were warmly welcomed by Ms Gillian Merron MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

Discussion sessions:

- ***Transparency of Public Accounts***

The reporting cycle; role of the Public Accounts Committee, the Comptroller and Auditor General, and the National Audit Office; how these bodies interact and support one another.

Mr Tim Burr *Comptroller and Auditor General*

Rt Hon. Keith Hill MP *Labour; Member, Public Accounts Committee*

- ***The Committee System***

Different types of Committee; taking evidence; Committee visits; output / reports from Committees; role of a Committee Chairman; how Committees could be further strengthened.

Sir George Young MP *Conservative; Chairman, Standards and Privileges Committee*

Mr Eric Illsley MP *Labour; Member, Foreign Affairs Select Committee*

Mr David Natzler *Clerk of Committees, House of Commons*

- ***Scrutiny of the Prime Minister I + PMQs***

How the Prime Minister is held to account by Parliament; view Questions to the Leader of the House of Commons, Rt Hon. Harriet Harman QC MP

Mr Liam Laurence Smyth *Clerk of Bills, House of Commons*

- ***The Legislative Process***

Different types of Bills; where Bills originate and the stages they must pass through; consultation with interested parties; delegated legislation.

Mr Liam Laurence Smyth *Clerk of Bills, House of Commons*

Ms Madeleine Moon MP *Labour*

Mr David Beamish *Clerk Assistant, House of Lords*

- ***The Scrutiny Unit (Clerks only)***

Support of Select Committees and Public Bill Committees.

Mr Matthew Hamlyn *Scrutiny Unit*

Thursday 5 March Delegates took part in further debates on the following subjects:

Discussion sessions:

- ***Parliamentary Standards***

Work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Standards and Privileges Committee; how the two interact and support one another; reports and their impact.

Mr John Lyon CB *Parliamentary Commissioner for Standard*

Mr Chris Mullin MP *Member; Standards and Privileges Committee*

- ***Hansard***

History of Hansard; how the Official Report is recorded, edited and published; challenges faced; resources involved; recent changes and reforms.

Ms Lorraine Sutherland *Editor, Hansard*

Mr Jonathan Hoare *Sub-editor, Hansard*

- ***Party Discipline in Parliament (Members of Parliament only)***

Whips as a channel of communication between back and frontbenches; ensuring party discipline; cooperation between Government and Opposition whips; organisation of the whips' offices.

Mr Tony Cunningham MP *Labour; Government Pairing Whip*

Lord Shutt of Greetland *Liberal Democrats; Chief Whip in the House of Lords*

Mr James Duddridge MP *Conservative; Opposition Whip*

- ***The Journal Office (Clerks only)***

The writing of the Votes and Proceedings; formal laying of parliamentary papers; advice on public petitions.

Mr James Davies *Journal Office*

- ***The Vote Office (Clerks only)***

Production and distribution of parliamentary and government papers

Mr Owen Sweeny Deputy Deliverer of the Vote

- ***The Role of an MP in the Constituency (Members of Parliament only)***

Varied nature of constituency work; striking a balance between constituency and parliamentary work; structure of constituency offices; challenges in other countries compared to the UK.

Ms Diane Abbott MP *Labour*

Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP *Conservative; Shadow Minister for International Trade and Development*

- **The Table Office in Depth (Clerks only)**

The work of the Clerk at the Table; how IT supports the work of the Table.

- **The Register of Members' Interests**

History of the Register; what defines an "interest"; challenges involved in registering interests and how they can be addressed; striking a balance between accountability and privacy.

Ms Alda Barry *Registrar of Members' Interests*

Friday 6 March The day comprised two simultaneous programmes: one for the Members of Parliament and one for the Clerks. In small groups, the Members of Parliament were hosted by various UK MPs in their constituencies. The Clerks attended a programme hosted in Parliament by Hansard and were given the opportunity to shadow the Education Unit during a school visit.

Saturday 7 March A bus tour of London was arranged for delegates.

Sunday 8 March Free day.

Monday 9 March Commonwealth Day. Delegates attended discussion sessions in the morning on the topics listed below. In the afternoon, delegates were invited to attend the Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. In the evening, a group of fifteen delegates were invited to a reception at Marlborough House during which they were introduced to the Queen and Prince Philip and a group photo was taken.

Discussion sessions:

- ***The Industry and Parliament Trust***

Benefits and impact of increased dialogue between parliamentarians and the business sector; work done by the Industry and Parliament Trust to achieve this; challenges involved.

Mrs Sally Muggeridge *Chief Executive, Industry and Parliament Trust*

- ***The Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme***

Purpose of the Scheme; administration and logistics involved; theoretical and practical aspects of the Scheme; benefits of increased parliamentary knowledge about the Armed Forces.

Col. Sir Neil Thorne OBE TD DL *Founder and Chairman, Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme*

- ***Young People and Parliament: Engaging the Next Generation***

Engaging young people with politics and parliament; school visits to Parliament; making a parliament accessible via the internet; creating useful internet resources.

Mr Tom O'Leary *Head, Education Services, Houses of Parliament*

Ms Beccy Allen *Project Manager, HeadsUp programme, Hansard Society*

Mr Alex Sergent *Project Co-ordinator and Producer, Catch21 Productions*

- ***The Electoral Commission***

The purpose of the Electoral Commission and its key areas of focus; ensuring neutrality in the Commission; international work undertaken by the Commission.

Mr Peter Wardle *Chief Executive, Electoral Commission*

Tuesday 10 March Delegates took part in discussions on the subjects listed below. In addition they attended a working lunch with UK Members of Parliament and

Discussion sessions:

- ***How is Parliament Run?***

The Commons Commission and Directorates; the House Committee; challenges of running a unique organisation like Parliament and how management responds; future changes and adaptation.

Dr Malcolm Jack *Clerk of the House of Commons*

Mr David Beamish *Clerk Assistant, House of Lords*

Mr Nick Harvey MP *Liberal Democrats; Member, House of Commons Commission*

- ***Marking International Women's Day: Women in Politics and Parliament***

Current number of women in Parliament; how an increase has been achieved; what its impact on Parliament has been; continuing challenges and how address them.

Baroness Verma *Conservative*

Mrs Betty Williams MP *Labour*

- ***Webcentre: Committee Websites (Clerks only)***

The Parliamentary Webcentre and the use of the web by committees.

Mr Matt Instone *Web Editor, Department of Information Services*

Ms Katriona Marchant *Senior Web Editor, Department of Information Services*

- ***MPs and the Internet: Challenges and Opportunities (Members of Parliament only)***

The internet as a tool to engage with constituents and wider public; what makes an MP's website successful; resources involved; lessons from the 2008 US election.

Mr Derek Wyatt MP *Labour* Mrs Nadine Dorries MP *Conservative*

Ms Kerry McCarthy MP *Labour*

- ***The Modernisation Committee (Clerks only)***

The work of the Committee in considering how the practices and procedures of the House should be modernised.

Mr David Natzler *Clerk of Committees*

- ***Broadcasting Parliament***

The importance of broadcasting parliamentary proceedings; protocols for filming in the Chamber; methods to increase viewing figures; programming for parliamentary recess.

Mr Peter Knowles *Controller, BBC Parliament*

- ***Engaging with the Media (Members of Parliament only)***

How MPs and the media interact; the challenges involved in dealing with the press; methods to develop successful relationships with national and local media; working with the lobby journalists; effective press releases.

Miss Julie Kirkbride MP *Conservative*

Ms Sally Keeble MP *Labour*

- ***Legal Services and Speaker's Counsel (Clerks only)***

General legal advice to the House departments and areas covered; advice to Committees.

Mr Michael Carpenter *Speaker's Counsel and Head of Legal Services Office*

Wednesday 11 March Delegates took part in discussions on the subjects listed below. In addition, a Seminar Dinner was held at Tallow Chandler's Hall to which all delegates were invited, along with several UK Members and Clerks.

Discussion sessions:

- ***The Serjeant at Arms***

The various ceremonial, Chamber and security duties of the Serjeant at Arms (SAA); the structure of the SAA directorate; examples of security challenges and how they are addressed.

Mrs Jill Pay *Serjeant at Arms, House of Commons*

Paying for Parliament

How Parliament is funded; who proposes expenditure in each House; how each House is audited; Members salaries and allowances.

Mr Andrew Walker *Director General, Department of Resources, House of Commons*

Mr Jonathan Smith *Head of Finance, House of Lords*

- ***Scrutiny of the Prime Minister II + PMQs***

How the Prime Minister is held to account by Parliament; view Questions to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Gordon Brown MP.

Mr Liam Laurence Smyth *Clerk of Bills, House of Commons*

- ***Resources for Former Members***

Pensions for Members; re-training opportunities; the Association of Former Members of Parliament.

Mr Alf Bates *Member, Executive Committee, Association of Former Members of Parliament*

Sir John Butterfill FRICS MP *Conservative*

- ***Working Relations in Parliament: Ensuring Excellence***

Interaction between clerks, parliamentarians and other senior staff in Parliament; suggestions to establish effective working relations; input from all delegates.

Mr Mark Hutton *Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons*

Rt Hon. Alun Michael MP *Labour*

- ***Research and Information Services for Members***

Structure, funding and staffing of the Commons and Lords Libraries; other information services available to Members.

Mr John Pullinger *Librarian and Director General, Information Services, House of Commons*

Ms Elizabeth Hallam Smith *Director of Information Services and Librarian, House of Lords*

Thursday 12 March Final discussion sessions were held on subjects as listed below. Baroness Northover, Vice-Chairman of the UK Branch hosted a farewell lunch in the Cholmondeley Room which was attended by all delegates and several members of the UK Branch Executive Committee. After lunch, delegates attended a final summing up session and were presented with a certificate of attendance by Sir Nicholas Winterton DL MP and Dr Malcolm Jack, Clerk of the House of Commons.

Discussion sessions:

- ***Parliamentary Democracy: Supporting and Strengthening***

Interactive session to discuss existing programmes and areas of focus; how future programmes might be extended or improved; how to ensure programmes meet the needs of parliamentarians and officials.

Mr Mark Hutton *Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons*

Mr Ken Courtenay *Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union British Group*

Mr Andrew Tuggey DL *Secretary, CPA UK Branch*

- ***Climate Change: What role for Parliamentarians?***

Overview of scientific debate surrounding climate change; what MPs can do to raise awareness of climate change inside and outside parliament; scrutiny of key policy areas.

Mr Elliot Morley MP *Labour; Chair, Energy and Climate Change Select Committee; President, GLOBE International*

Dr Alan Whitehead MP *Labour; Member, Energy and Climate Change Select Committee*

- ***The Global Financial Crisis: Briefing***

Briefing on the current global financial situation; the UK's response to the crisis; MPs' role in the oversight of financial regulation and holding the executive to account over its actions in the financial sector.

Alderman Ian Luder *Lord Mayor of the City of London*

Mr Andy Love MP *Labour; Member, Treasury Select Committee*

- ***Closing Session and Presentation of Seminar Certificates***

Dr Malcolm Jack *Clerk of the House of Commons*

Sir Nicholas Winterton DL MP *Conservative; Member, CPA UK Branch Executive Committee.*

OUTCOMES

Objective 1 – To learn more about accountability and legislation mechanisms (Members of Parliament and Clerks)

In designing the Seminar programme, the term ‘accountability’ was taken to encompass both the way in which Parliament holds the Government to account, as well as the broader theme of accountability in public life as a Member of Parliament. Under the subject of Parliament holding the government to account, discussion topics included Parliament’s Role in Taxation and Public Expenditure; the work of Committees, and a specific session on the Public Accounts Committee; the role of the Opposition; and Prime Minister’s Question Time. In order to discuss accountability in public life, sessions were arranged on Parliamentary Standards, the Electoral Commission, and engaging with the media.

Delegates also had the opportunity to discuss various aspects of the legislative process in Parliament, including Committee work; delegated legislation; the passage of a Bill through Parliament; and the work of a second chamber in revising legislation.

Objective 2 – To study the structure, administration and funding of Parliament and the work of its key office holders (Members of Parliament and Clerks)

This year’s Seminar included sessions on the structure, administration and funding of Parliament, an area of discussion which has not been included in the programme before. Presentations were given by, amongst others, Dr Malcolm Jack, Chief Executive of the House of Commons and Mr Nick Harvey MP, member of the House of Commons Commission. Other first-time sessions were also arranged on the subject of resources and support available for former Members, and how to ensure effective working relations between Members and Clerks in Parliament.

Various key office holders at Westminster gave presentations to the group, including Rt Hon. Michael Martin MP, Speaker of the House of Commons; Mrs Jill Pay, Serjeant at Arms; and Baroness Hayman, Lord Speaker. The delegates were greatly appreciated this access to such senior parliamentary figures and gained a great deal from their discussions with them.

Objective 3 – To examine methods to represent and engage better with communities (including a constituency visit) (Members of Parliament only)

The idea of representing and engaging better with communities was explored in various ways during the Seminar. Delegates discussed constituency work with UK colleagues and took part in a constituency visit on Friday 6, during which they visited the constituency office and various sites of local importance (e.g. schools, hospitals, grass-roots organisations). They also had the opportunity to meet constituency staff and local councillors.

Back at Westminster, the group discussed representation and engagement more broadly, looking at the representation of women and young people in politics and Parliament. They also examined how the internet and new media can be used as an effective tool to communicate better with constituents and the general public. Finally, delegates heard two examples of initiatives that are encouraging MPs to engage better with certain sectors in society – the first was the Industry and Parliament Trust; the second was the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme.

Objective 4 – To explore contributions parliamentarians can make on the issue of climate change and the global financial crisis (Members of Parliament and Clerks)

Delegates were briefed on climate change and the global financial crisis, and explored the ways in which parliamentarians may hold their executive to account over its actions (or lack thereof) in each area.

Objective 5 – To examine the work of key Clerk offices including the Table Office, the Vote Office, the Journal Office, the Education Unit, Speaker’s Counsel, and the Scrutiny Unit (Clerks only)

For the second year running, the Branch hosted a small group of Clerks at the Seminar in addition to the usual group of Members of Parliament. Several Clerk-specific sessions were arranged for these delegates and included discussions with senior staff in the Table Office, the Vote Office, the Journal Office, Hansard, Speaker’s Counsel, and the Scrutiny Unit. The group was also given the opportunity by the Education Unit to shadow a school visit to Parliament. This allowed the delegates to see the school outreach programme in action.

Objective 6 – To interact and exchange views with Members and officials at Westminster (Members of Parliament and Clerks)

Each discussion session involved a presentation by one or more speakers, then a Q&A period during which delegates could ask questions, make observations or raise points of particular interest. This part of the session allowed delegates to tailor the discussion to their own needs and interests. The group made maximum use of this interactive space and there were regularly more delegates wanting to ask questions than time available.

Speakers were chosen based on their experience and interest in the area under discussion, which ensured a detailed, knowledgeable level of debate throughout the Seminar. Wherever possible the panel was balanced in terms of gender and party, and in addition to those Members who gave presentations, Clerks and officials were included as speakers where appropriate. This gave delegates a more technical perspective during many discussions and increased both the breadth and the depth of debates which took place.

Delegates were also given more informal opportunities to interact with UK Members and officials, for example at the various receptions held during the Seminar, and at the working lunches, the Seminar dinner and the Farewell lunch. Outside the programmed sessions and events the UK Branch staff also facilitated several ad hoc meetings between delegates and individual UK Members. This helped delegates to maximise their relatively short time at Westminster.

Objective 7 – To mark and celebrate Commonwealth Day (Members of Parliament and Clerks)

Commonwealth Day took place on Monday 9 March. All delegates were invited to attend the Commonwealth Day Observance service held at Westminster Abbey in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. A further fifteen delegates, selected by ballot, attended a reception at Marlborough House hosted by HM Queen Elizabeth II and HE Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General. During the evening the delegates were introduced to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness and group photo was taken.

THANKS

The Branch is very grateful to the House of Commons’ Overseas Office for arranging the Clerk-specific sessions and for their assistance and support throughout the Seminar.

The Branch would also like to thank all the speakers – from both inside and outside Parliament - who participated in the Seminar discussion sessions. It is also most grateful to Mr Andrew Rosindell MP, Mr Andy Love MP, Mr Bob Russell MP, Mr Derek Wyatt MP, Mr John Austin MP, Mr Mark Oaten MP and Mr Roger Gale MP and their staff for hosting constituency visits, all of which were a great success.

OBSERVATIONS

Due to the geographic location of the Seminar, discussions tended to focus on the way things are done at Westminster. Much can be learned from legislatures outside the UK of course and wherever possible, speakers were asked to use examples taken from other countries and to give generic, rather than Westminster-specific presentations. This is an approach to be pursued and expanded upon in future Seminars.

XVII CPA UK BRANCH FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

Under the Fellowship Scheme the Branch offers financial assistance to members for projects or studies in Commonwealth countries. These projects or studies are to be on matters likely to be of interest to parliamentarians. Attendance at Commonwealth conferences/workshops may qualify. In 2008 there were a number of recipients of funds for the Fellowship scheme.

July 2008 Following on from his attendance at the Africa Regional Conference in Zambia Mr David Borrow MP visited Malawi to undertake a study into how orphans are supported with particular interest in orphans whose parents had died from AIDS related illness. With assistance from in-country DfID officials, Mr Borrow visited various projects funded by UK-based NGOs including “Friends of Mulanji Orphans” (FOMO) which is based in his South Ribble constituency.

August 2008 Mr John Grogan MP visited Australia to examine anti-siphoning legislation (legislation which empowers the Government to specify events that should be available on free-to-air television for viewing by the general public, preventing certain events are not ‘siphoned off’ by subscription television channels to the detriment of free-to-air television viewers).

Mr Grogan visited Sydney and had meetings with Cricket Australia, Free TV – an industry body representing all of Australia’s commercial free-to-air television licensees, the Australian Communications and Media Authority and a lawyer with expertise in the subject matter. In Canberra Mr Grogan had meetings with a representative from the Australian Government’s Broadcasting, Regional Strategy, Digital Economy and Corporate Division, Broadcasting and Content Division and a senior adviser to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy.

Mr Grogan also explored New Zealand’s standpoint during discussions with Mr Jim Anderton, the Leader of New Zealand’s Progressive Party.

September 2008 Mr Derek Wyatt MP visited India to look at the Indian creative Industries in Mumbai (Finance capital, centre of TV production and Hindi Films (Bollywood) - approximately 700 films made a year) and Chennai (centre of Tamil Film and TV production industry; approximately 300 films made a year) and see whether there were any possibilities of joint ventures or areas of cooperation.

Mr Wyatt followed up his packed programme of meetings with stakeholders in film and television production and associated industries with a series of UK-based meetings to continue progress on collaborative projects. As a result of Mr Wyatt’s visit ‘UK Creative Industries’ has become the first sub-group of the UK-India Business Council.

Further details and full reports of all these visits are available from the Branch.

XVIII VISITS TO THE BRANCH

a) VISIT OF A DELEGATION FROM CPA SOUTH AFRICA BRANCH

The Branch hosted the visit of Members of the Parliament of South Africa 21 – 25 January 2008.

DELEGATION

The delegation was as follows:

National Council of Provinces:

Hon. Mrs Mildred Oliphant MP (*House Chairperson in the NCOP (Assistant Presiding Officer) (African National Congress) (Leader of the delegation)*)

Hon. N Ntwanambi MP (*Chairperson of the Select Committee on Economic and Foreign Affairs) (African National Congress)*)

Hon. R J Tau MP (*Chairperson of the Select Committee on Public Services) (African National Congress)*)

National Assembly:

Hon. M Ellis MP (*Deputy Chief Whip, Democratic Alliance)*)

Hon. Z L Madasa MP (*Member of the CPA Branch Executive Committee) (African National Congress)*)

Hon. S Seaton MP (*Deputy Chief Whip, Inkatha Freedom Party)*)

Delegation Secretary:

Ms Hlanganani Mathonsi (*International Relations Assistant, Parliament of South Africa)*)

OBSERVERS

Mrs Nomonde Keswa (*Head of Legislation and Oversight Division)*)

Mr Xola Mnene (*Personal Assistant to Mrs Oliphant)*)

AIM

The aim of the visit was to brief South African parliamentarians on parliamentary oversight in the United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the visit were:

- To brief delegates on the passage of legislation at Westminster, including the Committee system
- To brief delegates on current climate change issues and legislation
- To enable delegates to engage with Westminster colleagues on parliamentary issues of mutual interest

PROGRAMME

The delegation arrived on Sunday 20 January. After a tour of the Palace of Westminster the following morning, they were welcomed to Westminster by Lord Anderson of Swansea DL. They lunched in the CPA Room with Members; joining them was Hon. Richard Torbay MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, New South Wales. In the afternoon they had discussion sessions on the Political Scene at Westminster and Climate Change, and they were welcomed to the All Party South Africa Group by the Chairman of the Group, Ms Anne McIntosh MP.

Tuesday 22 January was spent at the National Assembly for Wales as guests of the CPA Wales Branch. They were given a tour of the building before lunch with members of the Branch at which they were

welcomed by Ms Janet Ryder AM, Chair of the Branch. They attended Questions to the First Minister in the afternoon, and then spent half an hour with him discussing points of mutual interest. They concluded their visit to Cardiff with a short tour of the Millennium Stadium as guests of the Stadium manager, Mr Gerald Toms.

On Wednesday 23 January, the delegation visited Marlborough House and spent an hour with the Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Rt Hon. Don McKinnon. They then returned to Westminster in time for Questions to the Prime Minister before lunch with Members. In the afternoon, they had a meeting with Chairmen of Public Bills Committees, in particular Mr Joe Benton MP and Sir Nicholas Winterton DL MP. They then called on the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon. Michael Martin MP, in Speaker's House, before discussing the parliamentary scene at Westminster with the Clerk of the House of Commons, Dr Malcolm Jack, and the Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr Michael Pownall. In the evening they were the guests of the South African High Commissioner, HE Dr L Mabuza, at a dinner at her residence.



Delegates with HE Rt Hon. Don McKinnon at Marlborough House

On Thursday 24 January, they discussed the Select Committee System with the Clerk of Committees, House of Commons, Ms Helen Irwin, and then went to the CPAS Headquarters for a presentation by the Secretary-General of the CPA, Dr William F Shija, and his colleagues. Delegates from the National Council of Provinces lunched in the House of Lords as guests of the Lord Speaker, Rt Hon. Baroness Hayman, whilst the other delegates lunched with the Secretary-General of the CPA at 7 Millbank. In the afternoon, the delegation discussed the Register of Members' Interests.

On Friday morning the delegation visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a tour and discussions with officials. They lunched in the House of Commons before leaving for the airport for their flights home.

OUTCOMES

The delegation fulfilled the aim and achieved the objectives of its visit.

b) VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

The Branch hosted the visit of Members of the Parliament of Sri Lanka from Sunday 24 February to Saturday 1 March 2008.

DELEGATION:

The delegation was as follows:

Hon. Wijesinghe J M Lokubandara MP – Speaker (Leader of the delegation)

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva MP – Minister of Healthcare & Nutrition and Leader of the House

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage MP – Minister of Power

Hon. Mohamed Mahroof MP

Hon. Kathirgamathamby Thurairtnasingham MP

Mrs Priyane Wijesekera – Secretary General of Parliament, Secretary to the delegation

Mr Mahroof, Mr Aluthgamage and Mr Lokubandara were accompanied.

SUMMARY:

The delegation visited Westminster for three days meeting with many MPs and discussing conflict resolution amongst other issues. The delegates then travelled to Northern Ireland and spent three days learning about devolved matters, meeting various political parties and visiting two diverse UK industries.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

The aim of the visit was to strengthen ties between Sri Lankan and UK parliamentarians.

The objectives of the visit were:

- To be briefed on UK parliamentary practice and procedures
- To explore the current political and parliamentary scene at Westminster
- To visit a devolved legislature and learn about devolved matters in the UK
- To gain an overview of UK industry

PROGRAMME:

Sunday 24 February: Arrival Day.

Monday 25 February: Tour of the Palace of Westminster and Welcome to the CPA UK Branch. Briefing on the Committee System, meeting with Lord Malloch Brown and an informal meeting with the Sri Lanka APPG and Tamil APPGs.

Tuesday 26 February: Visit to the Commonwealth Secretariat to meet the Secretary-General; meeting with the Deputy Speaker (Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP); briefing on the Political Scene at Westminster, the CPA by Dr William Shija (CPA Secretary General), the Role of the Opposition and a pre-visit briefing on Northern Ireland by Rt Hon. Paul Murphy MP. Viewing of proceedings of the House of Lords.

Wednesday 27 February: Briefing on the Parliamentary System at Westminster, Register of Members' Interests and viewing Prime Minister's Question Time. Travel to Northern Ireland.

Thursday 28 February: Briefing on the Northern Ireland Assembly. Meeting with the various political parties. Visit to Inward Investment Northern Ireland followed by a site visit to a Telecoms call centre. Reception and dinner hosted by the Northern Ireland Speaker (Mr William Hay MLA).

Friday 29 February: Visit to engineering manufacturing factory. Return to London.
Saturday 1 March: Departure day.



Delegates with the Commonwealth Secretary-General

OUTCOMES:

- **To be briefed on UK parliamentary practice and procedures**

The delegates had thorough briefings on several aspects of parliamentary practice and procedures from both MPs and various clerks; this gave them a full insight into UK parliamentary practice and procedures.

- **To explore the current political and parliamentary scene at Westminster**

Delegates were able to meet with many Westminster MPs both formally in meetings and informally over working lunches and discuss many relevant issues. The visits to both the House of Commons and Lords Galleries respectively coupled with the lively discussions enabled the delegation to understand Westminster issues more fully.

- **To visit a devolved legislature and learn about devolved matters in the UK**

The delegates met their objectives to learn about devolved matters in the UK by visiting the Northern Ireland Assembly. The meetings with the various political parties gave delegates an opportunity to raise and discuss various issues of joint interest and the presentations by the CPA Northern Ireland Branch enabled delegates to appreciate the successes and challenges faced by a newly devolved legislature. The dinner hosted by the Speaker enabled delegates to discuss issues of a mutual concern in a more informal environment.

- **To gain an overview of UK industry**

The visits to a telecoms call centre and the engineering factory respectively gave the delegates an insight into the diversity of UK industry and prompted much discussion.

The aim and all objectives of the visit were met.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The CPA UK Branch would like to thank all the participants who took part in the visit both at Westminster and in Northern Ireland for their help and support.

c) VISIT OF A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF MAURITIUS

A delegation of members from the Mauritius National Assembly visited Westminster 19-25 October 2008.

DELEGATION

Leader

Hon. Rajkeswur PURRYAG, GOSK (*Speaker of the National Assembly*)

Delegates

Hon. Jean-Claude BARBIER MP

Hon. Nandcoomar BODHA MP

Hon. Dhanraj BOODHOO MP

Hon. Madan Murlidhar DULLOO MP

Hon. Yatindra Nath VARMA MP

Delegation Secretary

Mrs Bibi Safeena LOTUN (*Deputy Clerk*)

SUMMARY

In accordance with the Branch's objectives to strengthen parliamentary democracy in the Commonwealth and to further cooperation between Commonwealth Parliaments, the Branch organised a weeklong programme for a delegation of six Members of the National Assembly of Mauritius led by the Speaker.

AIM

To brief Mauritian parliamentarians on parliamentary practice and procedure in the United Kingdom and to strengthen the bi-lateral relationship between the UK and Mauritian parliaments

OBJECTIVES

- To brief delegates on aspects of parliamentary practice and procedure at Westminster
- To brief delegates on the library and research facilities of the UK Parliament
- To brief delegates about the recording and broadcasting of Parliament
- To brief delegates about the security of the parliamentary estate
- To brief delegates about devolved and local Government in the UK
- To learn about the constituency work of Westminster MPs
- To enable delegates to engage with Westminster colleagues on parliamentary and political issues of mutual interest

PROGRAMME

Sunday 19 October - (Arrival Day)

Monday 20 October – (Westminster) Welcome and briefing; Discussion: The Parliamentary Scene at Westminster; Reception as guests of Speaker of the House of Commons; Working lunch with Westminster MPs; View proceedings of the House of Lords; Discussion: The Committee System (with the Chairmen of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Culture Media and Sports Committee); View proceedings of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee; Discussion: The Role of the Serjeant at Arms.

Tuesday 23 October - (Cardiff) Official Welcome; Introduction to Devolution in Wales (Welsh Assembly Government and National Assembly for Wales); Working lunch with AMs and officials; View proceedings of the National Assembly including First Minister's Questions; Tour of the Senedd and Cardiff Bay.

Wednesday 24 October – (Westminster) Tour of Parliament; Discussion: Parliamentary Questions and Motions; View proceedings of the House of Commons including Questions to the Secretary of State for Wales and Questions to the Prime Minister; Working lunch with Westminster MPs; Briefing on Hansard and tour of the Press Gallery; Discussion: The Role of the Speaker; Discussion: Parliamentary Standards; Briefing on the House of Commons Library and Research Services.

Thursday 25 October – (Westminster, Maidstone and Hythe) Visit Commonwealth Secretariat: Briefing from Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General; Briefing on the Parliamentary Recording Unit; Tour of Studio and briefing on BBC Parliament; Visit to County Hall, Maidstone, Kent for briefing on UK local Government and the work, operations, remit and funding of Kent County Council; Reception and Dinner at the Hythe Imperial Hotel, Maidstone with community representatives - including presentation on refurbishment plans for the Hythe Imperial Hotel.

Friday 26 October – (Hythe and Folkestone) Visit and Tour of Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School; Presentation on the Regeneration of Folkestone Town Centre (Creative Quarter), Harbour and Seafront and tour of the sites; Lunch with representatives from Eurotunnel.

Saturday 27 October - (Departure Day)

OUTCOMES

Westminster Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

The delegation was briefed on a number of areas of interest during a series of intensive and interactive sessions on the parliamentary scene at Westminster, the Westminster Committee system, the role of the Serjeant at Arms, Parliamentary Questions and Motions, the role of the Speaker and Parliamentary Standards. The delegation also learned a great deal from discussions with UK parliamentarians, observing the proceedings of the House of Commons and House of Lords and the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee.

Library and Research Facilities

The delegation was briefed by the Director of Research Services which included a tour of the facilities and an interactive demonstration of the online facilities available to Members and their staff.

Parliamentary Recording and Broadcasting

This was of particular interest to the delegation as advanced plans were in place in Mauritius to begin broadcasting proceedings of the National Assembly; consequently the delegation learned from the briefings and tours of the facilities of the Parliamentary Recording Unit and BBC Parliament.

Security of the Parliamentary Estate

Parliamentary Security was the focus of the briefing from the Serjeant at Arms.

Devolved and Local Government

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) gave a targeted presentation on the process by which Wales established its devolved legislature and the practicalities of the work and function of the Executive (WAG) and the National Assembly. During the visit to Kent County Council the delegation learnt about the management of a large local authority. On both counts the briefings emitted much interest because of the parallels between the sizes of the regions concerned; both Wales and the County of Kent have similar size populations to Mauritius and so there was empathy for the issues raised. Delegates also met a number of representatives from Shepway District Council during their visit to Folkestone and Hythe giving an insight into the treatment of more local issues.

UK Constituency Work

The delegation met Rt Hon. Michael Howard MP in his constituency of Folkestone and Hythe. Unfortunately Mr Howard had another appointment later that day outside the constituency and so time did not allow for a discussion about his constituency work beyond the visits he accompanied to Hythe Bay Primary School and the Folkestone Creative Quarter. However, delegates were accompanied throughout their visit to Folkestone and Hythe by the Deputy Mayor of Hythe whose knowledge of the locality was invaluable and helped to elucidate on the relationship between the layers of Government within a UK constituency.

Engagement with Westminster MPs

Delegates met a number of Westminster parliamentarians during the programme and engaged on matters of mutual interest.

The delegation particularly valued the opportunity of meeting the Speaker of the House of Commons at a reception in their honour. They also particularly appreciated the opportunity of meeting and having discussions with Mike Gapes MP, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

CONCLUSION

The overall aim of the visit was met; the delegates were pleased with the programme which advanced their knowledge of UK parliamentary practice and procedure and helped to establish sustainable links between Mauritian and UK and parliamentarians. The objectives were mostly met, although due to the brevity of some of the briefings, some of the objectives were only partially achieved – however contacts were established and follow-up was invited and encouraged via email and the internet.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The CPA UK Branch Secretariat would like to thank all those who contributed to and helped to facilitate the programme, especially the speakers and UK Members of Parliament whose valuable time was much appreciated. The Branch would also like to acknowledge the CPA Wales Branch and the Welsh Assembly Government for facilitating the visit to Cardiff and establishing the day's programme and to Rt Hon. Michael Howard MP and the representatives from his constituency who contributed to the delegation's visit to Folkestone and Hythe; and in particular Councillor Mrs Keren Belcourt, Deputy Mayor of Hythe and her husband Reggie.

d) VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE STATES OF GUERNSEY

BACKGROUND

One of CPA UK's core tasks – 'to further cooperation between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth parliaments' includes a commitment to conduct parliamentary seminars for the Crown dependencies on request. In response to a request from the CPA Guernsey Branch, CPA UK organised and ran a programme for a delegation from the States of Guernsey.

DELEGATION:

Richard Collas, Deputy Bailiff (Leader)
Deputy Gloria Dudley Owen
Deputy Jan Kuttelwascher
Deputy Allister Langlois
Deputy Shane Langlois
Deputy Sean McManus
Deputy Robert Sillars
Mr Simon Ross, Deputy Greffier (Secretary)

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To visit Westminster to develop a further understanding of the Westminster parliamentary process and the functioning of UK Government Departments

- To be briefed on the parliamentary scene at Westminster including:
 - the Committee system
 - the House of Lords
 - the role of the Speaker
- To meet UK Members of Parliament to discuss areas of common interest
- To visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to be briefed on its objectives, organisation and structure

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 15 October (Westminster) - Tour of Parliament; Briefing: 'The Parliamentary Scene at Westminster'; Observe the proceedings of the House of Commons including Questions to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Questions to the Prime Minister; Working lunch with Members of Parliament; Briefing: 'The House of Lords'; Observe the proceedings of the House of Lords; Briefing: 'The Committee System'; Meeting and discussion with Deputy Speaker

Thursday 16 October (FCO and Westminster) – Tour of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Briefing: 'The Consular Crisis Group'; Briefing on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Meeting with Chairman and representatives of the Channel Islands APPG

OUTCOMES

To be briefed on the parliamentary scene at Westminster

The delegation was briefed on the Parliamentary Scene at Westminster by the Clerk of the Overseas Office

The Committee system - Briefing from Principal Clerk of Committees

The House of Lords - Briefing by the Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Lords

The Role of the Speaker - Briefing by the Deputy Speaker

Other areas of the programme dealing with these points of interest were attendance at Questions in the House of Commons and House of Lords and discussions with UK Members of Parliament.

To meet UK Members of Parliament to discuss areas of common interest

The delegation met UK Members of Parliament and discussed mutual interests and concerns during the Working lunch and at the Channel Islands APPG meeting.

To visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to be briefed on its objectives, organisation and structure

A tour and briefing was arranged and conducted by representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Feedback from the delegation gave assurances of the value of the visit and that objectives were met. CPA UK wishes to thank all those who briefed the delegation and the delegates for their engagement leading to positive and productive exchanges.

e) VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PAKISTAN

From Monday 3 – Friday 7 November, the CPA UK Branch hosted a visit of fourteen newly elected MNAs from the National Assembly of Pakistan. Their visit formed part of a six-month programme funded by the FCO (in partnership with CPA UK and the Pakistani NGO PILDAT) which aims to strengthen grass roots democracy in Pakistan.

DELEGATES

Delegation leader:

Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan MNA

Delegation members:

Mr Abdul Qadir Patel MNA
Ms Khush Bakht Shujat MNA
Mr Liaqat Ali Khan MNA
Mr Mohammad Arshad Khan Laghari MNA
Mr Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman MNA
Mr Noor Alam Khan MNA
Mr Pir Dilawar Shah MNA
Ms Saira Afzal Tarar MNA
Mr Sufyan Yusuf MNA
Mr Syed Nasir Ali Shah MNA
Dr Talat Iqbal Mahesar MNA
Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry MNA

Accompanying person:

Ms Aasiya Riaz (Joint Director, PILDAT)

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the visit was for delegates to learn about the role and responsibilities of Westminster MPs in the national, regional and constituency environments.

The objectives of the visit were for delegates to:

- Learn how Parliament works at Westminster

- Understand the relationships between national, regional and local government within the UK
- Learn about the role and work of a Westminster MP in Parliament, shadowing an MP
- Learn about the role of a Westminster MP in the local community, visiting a constituency
- Explore the relationship between MPs and the media.

PROGRAMME

Monday 3 November Delegates were given a tour of the Houses of Parliament and were welcomed by Sir Nicholas Winterton DL MP on behalf of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee. The group then took part in discussion sessions on the topics listed below. In addition, the group attended a working lunch with UK Members.

Discussion sessions:

- ***Decision-making in the UK: Parliament in Context***

The various levels of decision-making in the UK (local government, devolved assemblies, national parliament, European Union) and where Westminster fits into that system.

Mr Mark Hutton *Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons*

Ms Oonagh Gay *Head, Parliament and Constitution Centre, House of Commons Library*

Ms Vaughne Miller *Head, International Affairs and Defence Section, House of Commons Library*

- ***The Roles and Responsibilities of a UK MP***

The varied tasks expected of a UK MP, both within the constituency and within Parliament e.g. scrutiny of executive; committee work; debates; representing interests of constituency in Parliament; campaigning for party; etc.

Mr Greg Hands MP *Conservative*

- ***The Role of the House of Lords***

The work of the House of Lords, including legislation, committees, and judicial work; how the House of Lords operates alongside the Commons and the relationship between the two Houses; what the Lords does not do (representation of constituencies; taxation); and the role of the Lord Speaker.

Lord Faulkner of Worcester *Labour; Deputy Speaker, House of Lords*

Rt Hon. Lord Anderson of Swansea DL *Labour; Member, CPA UK Branch Executive Committee*

- ***The Legislative Process***

How the legislative process works in Westminster: where Bills originate; the stages a Bill must pass through; consultation with interested parties; differences between Public / Private / Private Member's Bills; delegated legislation.

Mr Robert Rogers *Clerk of Legislation, House of Commons*

Mr David Beamish *Clerk Assistant, House of Lords*

Tuesday 4 November Delegates took part in discussion sessions on the subjects listed below. In addition, the group attended a Select Committee meeting of their choice and attended a working lunch with UK Members.

Discussion sessions:

- ***The Committee System***

The committee system in Westminster: different types of committee in the Commons; taking evidence; Committee visits; output / reports from committees; role of Committee Chair.

Mr Mike Gapes *Labour; Chair, Foreign Affairs Select Committee*

Mr David Natzler *Clerk of Committees, House of Commons*

- ***Parliamentary Standards***

The work of the Standards and Privileges Committee; the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; the Register of Interests; how all three interact and support one another; output / enquiries / reports and their impact.

Mr John Lyon CB *Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards*

Rt Hon. Kevin Barron MP *Labour; Member, Standards and Privileges Committee*

- ***MPs and the Internet: Challenges and Opportunities***

The internet as a tool to engage with constituents and the wider public; what makes a website effective; on-line petitions; what the current challenges are and suggested methods to address them.

Mr Derek Wyatt MP *Labour*

Mr Paul Flynn MP *Labour*

- ***Engaging with the Media***

A look at how MPs and the media interact; the challenges involved in dealing with the press; methods to develop effective relationships with national and local media; working with the lobby journalists; press releases.

Miss Julie Kirkbride MP *Conservative*

- ***The Work of the Public Accounts Committee***

The tasks and functions of the PAC; recent enquiries; output / reports and their impact.

Mr Mark Etherton *Clerk, Public Accounts Committee*

Wednesday 5 November Delegates attended further discussion sessions on the topics listed below. The group viewed Prime Minister's Question Time and attended a lunch with Members of the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee and those UK Members who were to host them on their constituency visits later in the week. The delegates were also given an ad hoc briefing by Mr Shahid Malik MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice.

Discussion sessions:

- ***The Role of the Speaker at Westminster***

How the Speaker is elected and his/her impartiality; the role of the Speaker in the Chamber; the role of the Speaker more broadly in Parliament; the Deputy Speakers and their support of the Speaker.

Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP *Deputy Speaker, House of Commons; Chairman, Ways and Means*

- ***Women in Politics and Parliament***

Current numbers of women in the UK parliament and how this has come about; how an increasing level of female Members affects Parliament; continuing challenges and how best to address them.

Baroness Warsi *Conservative; Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and Social Action*
Mrs Betty Williams MP *Labour*

- ***The Role of the Opposition***

The role opposition parties play in Parliament and in holding the executive to account; scope for action as an opposition MP.

Mrs Caroline Spelman MP *Conservative; Chairman, Conservative Party*

Mr Paul Rowen MP *Liberal Democrats*

- ***Party Discipline in Parliament***

The whip systems within the various political parties in Parliament.

Mr Tony Cunningham MP *Labour; Pairing Whip*

Mr James Duddridge MP *Conservative; Whip*

- ***The Role of a UK MP in the Constituency***

The varied work of UK MPs in their constituencies (casework, local campaigning, liaising with local communities and authorities); striking a balance between constituency work and parliamentary work; structure and resources of constituency offices; the different challenges presented in rural and urban constituencies.

Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP *Conservative*

Mr Andy Love MP *Labour*

Thursday 6 November Delegates took part in final discussion sessions in the morning on the subjects listed below and also viewed proceedings in the House of Lords. In the afternoon, delegates departed for their various constituency visits.

Discussion sessions:

- ***Local Government in the UK***

Local government in the UK: the powers it has; how it is funded; local - central government relations and any current tensions; interaction between local councillors and Members of Parliament. The work of the Local Government Association and its programmes in Pakistan.

Mr James Beadle *International Programme Manager, European and International Unit, Local Government Association*

- ***The Pakistani Community in the UK***

UK-Pakistan migration and the current situation of the Pakistani community within the UK. Further discussion around community cohesion and faith / race relations.

Lord Ahmed *Labour*

Baroness Uddin *Labour*

Friday 7 November Delegates were hosted by various UK Members in their constituencies. Programmes varied from visit to visit, but generally included a visit to the MP's constituency office to see how it is run and meet constituency staff; meetings with local councillors and dignitaries; and various visits to sites of importance, such as schools, hospitals and community / grassroots organizations, in particular those focused on the needs of the constituency's Pakistani community.

OUTCOMES

Objective 1 – Learn how Parliament works at Westminster

Discussion sessions were arranged on various key functions of Parliament, including the Committee system and the Public Accounts Committee, the legislative process, the House of Lords, and the role of the Opposition. Furthermore, delegates attended discussions on how the whip system works in Parliament and were briefed by Sir Alan Haselhurst MP (Deputy Speaker) on the history and role of the Speaker in the Commons. The group was also briefed on the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and how he and the Standards and Privileges Committee work in support of one another.

Objective 2 – Understand the relationships between national, regional and local government within the UK

The delegates' opening session described the various levels of government within the UK, their various powers and how they interact. The speakers also referred to the European Union, thereby also including the supranational level of government. The sessions gave the group a clear understanding of the different tiers of government and where Parliament and Whitehall fit into that spectrum.

Towards the end of the week the delegates also received a briefing from the Local Government Association (LGA). This allowed the group to discuss local government in much greater detail and also brought to their attention the LGA's international work with counterparts in Pakistan. Many of the delegates commented on how useful the briefing had been since there are many difficulties in the local government system in Pakistan.

Objective 3 – Learn about the role and work of a Westminster MP in Parliament, shadowing an MP

Early on in the week a discussion session was held on the role and responsibilities of a UK MP. This was a broad theme and the debate touched on both constituency work (covered in more detail in a later session) and Westminster work. During the discussion on Westminster work, delegates were given an overview of the many and varied tasks expected of an MP on their days in Parliament e.g. scrutiny of the Government; committee work; debates; representing the interests of the constituency in Parliament.

In later sessions, as well as being briefed on the technical aspect of the subject under discussion, delegates were given personal insights from speakers about their own experiences of parliamentary work. This furthered their understanding of life as a UK MP.

The shadowing of an MP in Westminster was planned for Thursday afternoon, before the delegates' departed to visit various constituencies. In practice, however, three of the groups had to depart directly after lunch for their constituency visit and could not therefore take part in the shadowing. The remaining delegates found the opportunity to visit a Westminster office and see a UK MP in action very useful.

Objective 4 – Learn about the role of a Westminster MP in the local community, visiting a constituency

Whilst in Westminster, delegates took part in a discussion session on the role of an MP in the constituency. The two speakers at the session – one from a rural constituency and one from an urban constituency – gave the delegates an excellent insight into the variety of work that an MP can be required to carry out in their local area. Striking a balance between parliamentary and constituency work had been identified as a key point of interest prior to the session and was discussed by the speakers both of whom offered practical suggestions and advice.

The fourteen delegates were split into five small groups for their constituency visits. Two visits were within London (Edmonton; Southwark and Bermondsey) and three were further afield (Bridgend; Rochdale; Bradford). Programmes varied from visit to visit, but generally included a visit to the MP's constituency office to see how it is run and meet constituency staff; meetings with local councillors and dignitaries; and various visits to sites of importance, such as schools, hospitals and community / grassroots organizations, in particular those focused on the needs of the constituency's Pakistani community.

Delegates commented on how interesting they had found the visits and how much they had learned during them.

Objective 5 – Explore the relationship between MPs and the media.

A session on the engaging with the media was arranged for the group with Julie Kirkbride MP, a former print and media journalist. Miss Kirkbride's presentation was extremely engaging and enabled the delegates to see issue of media coverage from both perspectives – that of the MP and that of the journalist. During the session, Miss Kirkbride also offered much practical advice on, for example, developing a positive media strategy and giving a good TV interview.

How to make the most of the internet and new media had been identified as one of the delegates' key interests prior to the visit. A session was therefore arranged on the subject and a lively debate took place on how to develop a worthwhile website that sustains visitors' interest. Both presenters were internet enthusiasts and had won awards for their websites.

THANKS

The CPA UK Branch is most grateful to all the Members and officials who presented at the sessions in Westminster. It would also like to thank the six Members and their staff who so kindly hosted delegates during the constituency visits: Mrs Anne Cryer MP, Mr Andy Love MP, Mr Simon Hughes MP, Mr Paul Rowen MP, Mr Marsha Singh MP and Ms Madeleine Moon MP.

f) VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF SIERRA LEONE

The Branch hosted the visit of Members of the Public Accounts Committee of Sierra Leone 20 – 22 January 2009.

DELEGATION

The delegation consisted of:

Hon. Victor Chukuma Johnson MP (*PAC Chairman*)

Hon. Komba Eric Koedoyoma MP (*PAC Member, Majority Opposition Party*)

Mr Mohamed Jusu (*PAC Committee Clerk*)

Unfortunately the leader of the delegation was taken ill on arrival in London and was unable to participate in the programme.

AIM

The aim of the visit is to acquaint delegates with the workings of Public Accounts Committee at Westminster.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives were to:

- Study the workings of the Public Accounts Committee at Westminster
- Examine financial scrutiny at Westminster, the Treasury and the National Audit Office
- Learn how Parliament works
- Meet Members to discuss issues of mutual interest

PROGRAMME

The delegation arrived at Westminster on Tuesday 20 January. Following a briefing on the Branch and its activities from the Branch Secretary, the delegation was briefed on the workings of Parliament, the Public Accounts Commission and the Scrutiny Unit. On Wednesday 21 January, they were briefed on the Public Accounts Committee by the Clerk itself before attending a meeting in the afternoon, after which they met the Chairman and colleagues. On Thursday 22 January they were briefed on the National Audit Office before visiting HM Treasury in the afternoon. On all three days they met colleagues over lunches in the House.

OUTCOME

The Branch is most grateful for the support it received from both within the House and beyond that allowed the delegates to achieve the aim and objectives of their visit.

g) VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE STATES OF JERSEY

BACKGROUND

In accordance with its core tasks – ‘to further cooperation between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth parliaments’ CPA UK organised and ran a programme for a delegation of recently elected Members from the States of Jersey.

DELEGATION:

Connétable John Refault
Deputy Montfort Tadier
Deputy Andrew Green
Deputy Anne Dupré
Deputy Philip Rondel
Deputy Deborah de Sousa
Deputy Tracey Vallois
Deputy Jeremy Macon
Deputy Michael Higgins
Deputy Angela Jeune
Deputy Daniel Wimberley
Deputy Edward Noel
Deputy Trevor Pitman
Mrs Anne Harris, Deputy Greffier

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To develop a deeper understanding of the Westminster parliamentary system and the relationship between HMG and the Crown Dependencies

- To learn more about:
 - the Westminster Committee system
 - the legislative process at Westminster
 - how the Westminster Parliament is run
 - the role and work of the House of Lords
- To interact and exchange views with Members and officials at Westminster

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 18 March 2009 (Westminster) - Briefing: ‘The Parliamentary Scene at Westminster’; Observe the proceedings of the House of Commons including Questions to the Secretary of State for Scotland and Questions to the Prime Minister; Working lunch with Members of Parliament; Briefing: ‘The House of Lords’; Observe the proceedings of the House of Lords; Briefing and Discussion: The Relationship between HMG and the Crown Dependencies.

OUTCOMES

Delegates were briefed by Chris Stanton (Clerk, Public Bills Office) and Ed Ollard (Clerk of Committees, House of Lords) during which the Westminster Committee System, the Legislative Process, the Parliamentary Scene at Westminster and the Role and Work of the House of Lords were briefed on and discussed.

Delegates met and had discussions with UK Members during a Working Lunch.

The delegation was briefed by Rose Ashley (Head of the Crown Dependencies Team in the Ministry of Justice) and colleagues about the particulars of the relationship between HMG and the Crown Dependencies and specifically on Jersey-related issues.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The delegation, all newly elected Members of the States of Jersey, gave positive feedback on the programme which instructed them in their particular areas of interest. CPA UK would like to thank those who met, briefed and held discussions with the delegation.

XIX DELEGATIONS AND VISITS OVERSEAS

a) FALKLAND ISLANDS

DELEGATES

Delegation Leader:	Mr Jeff Ennis MP
Delegates:	Mr Paul Holmes MP
	Lord Jones of Cheltenham
	Professor Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE

Lord McColl was accompanied by his wife.

AIM

The aim of the visit is to brief delegates on the current issues affecting the Falkland Islands

OBJECTIVES

The objectives were to:

- Brief delegates on:
 - Relations with Argentina and Chile
 - Constitutional change
 - Trade and the economy
 - Energy and the environment
 - Tourism
 - Defence issues including de-mining
- Enable delegates to meet elected representatives, officials (including HE the Governor and the CBF), representatives of the private sector and the farming community
- Give delegates a good level of understanding of all aspects of the Islands

REPORT

Mr Ennis writes:

The delegation was very well received on the visit by the Falkland Islands Government who put together an excellent programme of visits and hospitality. We looked in detail at some of the outstanding political issues surrounding the Islands.

The first one of course is the continuing need for the sovereignty of the Islands to be determined by the Falkland Islands people. They fully support the Government's current stance of self determination for the future of the Islands. The Legislative Council is currently undertaking a review of the Constitution of the Falkland Islands; it certainly does need modernising as the current Constitution dates back to 1985. The Governor of the Islands, His Excellency Mr Alan Huckle, said that good progress is being made in revising the constitution, and that hopefully it will reach its conclusion later this year.

Currently the Islands are administered by eight Councillors. They also have an Executive Council of three members elected from the eight Councillors plus the Governor, the Attorney General and the Commander of British Forces. The Executive Council meets every month. The eight councillors are elected for two wards. Five councillors currently make up the Stanley Ward, and the others make up the Camp Ward that covers the rest of the Islands.



The delegation laying a wreath at San Carlos Cemetery along with Cllr Richard Cockwell

Access to the Islands is still a major problem. Currently the air bridge from RAF Brize Norton undertakes three return flights per fortnight. There is one commercial flight from Santiago in Chile per week. The Falkland Islands Government is trying to establish a second flight from Chile, but this is meeting with opposition from the Argentine Government. The Islands Government is currently investing heavily in improving the road infra-structure, and a new ferry will shortly be operating between the West and East Falklands. Currently, only 100 people live on the West Falklands, and it is hoped that the ferry will help develop West Falkland for tourism and business.

A number of oil companies are examining the possibility of finding oil around the Islands. We were informed that the Falkland Islands are at the same stage as the UK in the 1960s. If indeed oil and gas are discovered it would take at least five to six years to develop the resources. Oil would be collected from an off shore platform similar to the method used in the North Sea. If, however, gas is discovered, it will mean that the gas will have to be brought on shore to the Islands. This could possibly result in an issue of planning gain, because it will necessitate a new deep water port which will hopefully be financed by the oil companies.

Turning to the economic conditions of the Islands; since the confrontation with Argentina in the early eighties, the Falkland Islands have undergone quite a transformation. In his report of 1982, Lord Shackleton found that the Falkland Islands had a declining population, many absentee landlords and a wool based economy that was in meltdown. Since then, the population of the Falkland Islands has almost doubled, Stanley being the main centre of population. (Almost two thousand of the three thousand population live around Stanley). The Falkland Islands Government has revitalised the economy. There are now three major industries on the Islands: Fishing, Tourism and Agriculture.

Since 1982 the Falkland Islands have established a 200 mile exclusion zone round the Islands that has been used to exploit fishing licences from companies who pay for licences to fish in the Falkland Islands waters; particularly with companies from the Far East and Spain. This is now, by far and away, the main income generator.

The last 12 years has also seen a substantial increase in tourism to the Islands. The majority of income is derived from day visitors from visiting cruise ships. Last year some 65,000 visitors came to the Islands.

This year it is hoped that the figure will rise to 80,000. The main attractions on the Islands are of course its flora and fauna and its very clean environment. As part of its future tourism development strategy it is hoping to develop more land based overnight stays using locations such as Sea Lion Island. This will help develop a more sustainable tourism economy.

The third most important element of the economy is agriculture. There are eighty-eight farms based on the Islands. Most of them are family run with 308 people living on farms. Currently 36,000 sheep and lambs are sent to the new abattoir for slaughter. The Islands are concentrating on the production of more top quality lamb and finer wool.

Near neighbour Argentina is still proving to be a major stumbling block to further economic achievements. One outstanding problem is the proposed visit of the next of kin of fallen Argentine soldiers to Darwin Cemetery as part of the 25th anniversary of the war. The Argentine Government has requested that the visits will take the form of a number of charter flights for the families. The problem for the Falkland Islands Government is that the Argentine Government currently bans all charter flights into the Islands. What the Falkland Islands Government would like to consider is using the opening up of these compassionate flights to open up further charter flights between Argentina and the Falklands. Indeed the Falkland Islands Government would prefer to have the visit by the next of kin to be by ship to allow the visit to take place in one event, as that would be easier to manage.

The UK has to comply with the Ottawa Convention by 2009 to remove some 20,000 land mines located primarily on East Falkland. Because of the fact that the minefields are extremely well marked and there have been no civilian injuries, the Falkland Islands Government sees the clearance as a fairly low priority due to the costs involved in clearing the land mines and would rather funds were spent in areas of the World where mine clearance was an urgent requirement.

The Government are also considering trying to become the first ever entirely organic community in the world. I believe that this is an exciting initiative that if successful would portray the Islands in a very positive global light.

Turning to housing, the Government administer 250 social houses, some of which go to key workers. We also had an excellent visit to Mount Pleasant Complex, headquarters of the British Forces South Atlantic Islands, where over 500 personnel are housed. The Falkland Islands Government expressed their support for the current levels of troops deployed on the Islands. We also visited HMS Clyde. This is the patrol vessel that defends the Islands and is one of the Royal Navy's newest vessels. There is also an issue of the potential need for a Chinook helicopter to be stationed back on the Islands once the current military situation in Afghanistan and Iraq is resolved.

We also had two excellent visits to Stanley Primary and Secondary schools. In terms of post 16 provision the majority of Falkland Islanders attend colleges in England and stay on to attend English Universities. Currently, some 60 to 80 per cent of students who leave the Islands do return. We also had the opportunity to visit the hospital in Stanley and were extremely impressed by the standard of facilities in there, especially the levels of cleanliness. The Hospital is MRSA and c-difficile free. There are five GPs that work on the Islands and two dentists. Specialist medical requirements usually involve the Islanders having to travel to Santiago in Chile or the UK.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank all the Islanders for their assistance and hospitality during the course of our visit. In particular a special mention has to be given to Claudette Anderson, Clerk of the Falkland Islands CPA Branch and Clerk of Councils, who put our programme together and made all the arrangements locally. Also thanks to Councillor Richard Cockwell (formerly on the CPA Executive) who accompanied us throughout our visit and finally to the newly-wed Sukey Cameron, the Falkland Islands Government representative in London, who accompanied us down to the Islands.

b) WEST BENGAL

DELEGATION

Leader: Lord Paul of Marylebone (Labour)

Members: Lord Bhatia of Hampton (Cross Bench)
Dr Ashok Kumar MP (Labour)
Baroness Verma (Conservative)

Lord Paul was accompanied by Lady Paul and Baroness Verma by Mr Ashok Verma.

Rachael Varney, Assistant Secretary CPA UK Branch, was the accompanying delegation secretary

SUMMARY

CPA UK Branch sent a delegation to West Bengal, India at the beginning of April at the invitation of the Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Speaker Halim MLA. The delegation was most grateful for the warm welcome and hospitality it received and the range of meetings and people it met. It was pleased to have generally achieved all its objectives.

The delegation learned that West Bengal's key priorities are to industrialise the state, attract local investment, restore its cultural heritage which would lead to an increase in tourism and to form links with British Universities. Our overall impression was that West Bengal has made great strides in industrialising the state, and though it maintains a low profile, it has the third fastest growing economy in India. Although there are significant challenges in the area of education, the Government are showing a desire to tackle these problems.

AIM

To strengthen and renew the relationship between the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and the UK Parliament.

OBJECTIVES:

- To be briefed on outward and inward investment
- To explore industrial relations and visit a factory
- To learn about the challenges in education
- To examine the role of DFID aid to West Bengal
- To learn about cross party relationships and meet leaders of the various parties
- To discuss security and terrorism and the challenges for West Bengal
- To visit the Mother Theresa Missionaries of Charity Projects

PROGRAMME

Sunday 6 April: Arrival in Kolkata; visit to Mother Theresa's House and Charity Projects

Monday 7 April: Meeting and briefings at the Deputy High Commission with Mr Kevin McCole, Deputy Head of Mission in Kolkata, Mr Sudipto Sen, Senior Trade and Investment Adviser and Mr Shantanu Das, State Representative for DFID; meeting with the Honourable Speaker Halim, the Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Chief

Government Whip, Chairpersons of the Assembly Committees and Leaders of all the Legislative Parties in Syed Nausher Hall, Assembly House; lunch at Assembly House; meeting with the Standing Committee on Commerce & Industries of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly at the Writers' Building with an address by the Minister of Commerce, Mr Nirupam Sen MLA and in attendance the Chairman, the Principal Secretary, other officers of the Commerce & Industries Department and the Managing Director of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation; meeting with the British Council and short tour of the premises; dinner hosted by Mr Sundeep Bhutoria (trustee of Prabha Khaitan Foundation) at the ITC Sonar Hotel.

Tuesday 8 April: Visit to Tata's Small Car Project at Singur (approximately an hour from Kolkata); also visited a Caparo (British company) plant under construction; meeting with the Bengal Initiative in Assembly House; meeting with the Chief Minister, the Honourable Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharjee MLA at the Writers' Building; reception at the Deputy British High Commission with members of the British Business Group; dinner at Raj Bhavan with the Governor of West Bengal, Gopalkrishna Gandhi and other guests.

Wednesday 9 April: Visit to St Paul's Cathedral and Victoria Memorial; discussions with Professor Panda, Curator of the Victoria Memorial on challenges and priorities faced by the museum; meeting with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in the Hotel Taj Bengal, followed by lunch hosted by FICCI; boat trip on the River Ganges, visit to Belur Math, the Headquarters of the Ramakrishna Movement; dinner at the home of Mr and Mrs Kanoria, friends of Lord Paul.

Thursday 10 April: Visit to Santiniketan (3 hours from Kolkata), a famous university town in West Bengal and where the famous poet Rabindranath Tagore lived and wrote many of his literary classics. Visit included tour of the campus, discussions with the Vice Chancellor, a cultural show based on the songs of Tagore, lunch and a tour of the museum; return to Kolkata and dinner hosted by Mr Subhas Chakraborty MLA, Minister for Transport and Sport.

Friday 11 April: Visit to the Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor, a DFID assisted project in the municipalities of Kolkata. Tour of the slums with the Chairman of the Barrackpore Municipality, the local MP and the Project Director in attendance; visit to the Livelihood Promotion and Skills Development Training site; lunch hosted by the Deputy Speaker at the hotel; meeting with the Standing Committee on Home, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Jails, Law & Judicial in Syed Nausher Hall, Assembly House with address by the Commissioner of Police; courtesy call on the former Chief Minister at his residence; visit to a contemporary art exhibition at the Oberoi Grand followed by farewell dinner hosted by the Speaker at the ITC Sonar Hotel.

Saturday 12 April: Departure Day

OUTCOMES

Objective - to be briefed on outward and inward investment

This objective was achieved during the visit. The briefing by the Deputy High Commission gave a framework for the subsequent meetings and discussions on this subject, most notably with the Standing Committee on Commerce & Industries, the meeting with the Bengal Initiative and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. Relations between the UK and India are at their highest which

encourages investment both ways. There are now many UK companies working in India and of course, Indian Companies, such as TATA, doing business in the UK.

Thanks to the boom in Kolkata and the overall state's economy, West Bengal is now the third fastest growing economy in India and contributes 16% of the Gross Domestic Product. The Minister for Commerce informed the delegation that although largely dependent on agriculture in the past for its livelihood, focus is shifting to industry in West Bengal. Kolkata is also fast becoming a major hub for the Information Technology Industry, and 35-60,000 people work in the industry. IT services are growing at 35%, and by 2011 the state aims to be number 3 in IT services for India and to have 1 million working in the sector.

The state has promoted foreign direct investment, which has mostly come in the software and electronics fields. However, one of their challenges is attracting and locating investment. One of the themes which came back time and time again throughout the week was the cultural heritage that West Bengal has but is not exploiting sufficiently to increase revenue for tourism. Kolkata, for example, is steeped in British history, but major restoration is needed and most tourists bypass Kolkata on their way to Darjeeling, which is the main tourist attraction. Financial help from the UK would be welcome to help to restore the cultural heritage, but the delegation stressed that help and initiative from the UK was there, but not always financially; there are other practical ways it can and does help. For example, there was a group of architects due in Kolkata the week after the visit, organised and funded through the High Commission. This is a two-way process, and rhetoric needs to be transmitted into action. In the meeting with the Chief Minister the delegates discussed the proposed port development in Kolkata, with the Minister keen to carry this forward as a part of his plan to "beautify" Kolkata.

Objective - to explore industrial relations and visit a factory

The delegation was able to explore this through various meetings, but in particular the visit to Singur, the location for Tata's small car project allowed more in depth examination. According to the Minister for Commerce, Mr Sen, West Bengal is trying hard to industrialise the state and wants to expand the possibilities as a destination for investment. The plant at Singur covers 900-986 acres of land, and TATA will work with the company CAPARO, who will produce the body work. The plan is to launch the car by the end of 2008. The rapid industrialisation process has given rise to debate over land acquisition for industry in this agrarian state. This has caused much controversy in West Bengal, particularly between the Government and the main Opposition Party. The Opposition Party have come out in support of the local people, who they maintain are being driven off their land, displaced without due consultation and have ultimately lost their livelihood. There have been disturbances and clashes between demonstrators and police. The Government stresses that they are protecting the rights of the farmers by offering compensation packages and that the community will benefit from the plant. They maintain that the Opposition is using the situation to play politics. Before the visit to Singur, there was some objection from the Opposition, although in the end the visit passed off smoothly. The delegation is not in a position to take sides in this argument, but is of the view that the situation should be noted. During the visit TATA were keen to inform the delegation that the local people have benefited from the factory being there through the provision of a medical clinic one day a week, access to schooling and ultimately improving the employability of the people for the future.



Hon. Speaker Halim, delegation members, Tata and Caparo Employees at Tata's Small Car Project, Singur

Objective - to learn about the challenges in education

In the meeting with the Chief Minister the delegation learned that 68,000 primary schools now receive free books, free education and 1 free meal a day for the children. Within 2-3 yrs the government aims to get 100% of children into free primary education. However, it should be noted that 30% of children are not in primary education, and only 7% of Indians (taking the country as a whole) go on to higher education. Bengalis have the lowest figure in India going into higher education and the percentage of people going onto higher education in Africa is higher. The Chief Minister expressed his desire to create more management schools and a British University presence. There are no British campuses in West Bengal, although there is much interest from UK universities in establishing links. It should be noted that this does not necessarily demonstrate inaction on the Indian side. The delegation stressed that there are many very good universities other than Oxford and Cambridge to consider forming partnerships with and the need to develop these links from both sides. In addition there is also a lack of vocational training, a concern expressed by Baroness Verma and a looming skills gap in West Bengal, with a pool of untapped workers, without reading and writing skills.

The delegation visited the British Council offices to gain an understanding of how they are working in West Bengal and were met by Ms Sujata Sen, the Director and her team. The office in Kolkata deals with all of East India covering 13 states and nearly one-third of the Indian population of which West Bengal is the leading State. The Members were impressed with what they saw and learned. Most Council library members are below 30 years and costs 1100 rupees (approximately £12) a month to use. With membership they are able to loan books, music and use the library and information services in-house. On average the library has 1000 walk-in visitors every day, with about 1000 more by email or phone. Currently the UK government would like more output in the arts – design, theatre, music and the visual arts and the team are looking at how they can develop this. In terms of working with the West Bengal Education department, effective work is being undertaken in rural areas of the state to promote English language learning. With support from the Department of International Development UK and the West Bengal Government, the British Council is training Indian teachers of English through workshops

which the Education Minister herself has recently attended. In addition the State English project will reach 3.3 million learners through textbook and teachers' materials prepared by the British Council. This is an achievement to note, but much more needs to be done if the numbers going into primary education are to increase and if the problems in vocational training are to be overcome.

The delegation also visited Santiniketan, made famous by Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, whose vision became what is now a university town (Visva-Bharati University) that attracts thousands of visitors each year. The campus is a thriving and sought after place of education for Indians. However, it should be noted that a visit to the museum revealed that there is a strong need for restoration and yet there appears to be no move to engage in commercial activities which would provide the necessary revenue to do this.

Objective - to examine the role of DFID aid to West Bengal

Despite strong economic growth, the scale of poverty in India is immense. Up to 400 million people live on less than \$1 a day and a further 500 million live on between \$1 and \$2 dollars a day. In total 900 million (80% of the population) live in conditions of poverty or absolute poverty (*Statistics taken from the Department for International Development*).

According to DFID although the Government of India is committed to poverty reduction, there is a failure to implement on the scale necessary, and therefore the UK contribution of both money and technical advice is welcome. India is the largest recipient of aid from DFID. The total DFID India budget is £266 million, and of this approximately £45 million goes to West Bengal. In West Bengal DFID India are concentrating on working in the 6 poorest districts. The delegation visited one of these slums in the Barrakpore district to see the improvements that have been made with DFID assistance. The Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor Programme is helping 40 Urban Local bodies in the Kolkata metropolitan area to improve their capacity for urban planning and governance. They seek to improve the standard of living of over 2.4 million poor people through stronger governance, provision of water, sanitation and basic environmental infrastructure and policy reform. DFID support has resulted in substantial infrastructure improvements (roads, drainage, sanitation and water supply) in 339 slums. The delegation also visited a "Livelihood Promotion and Skills Development Training" site. Here it saw how groups of women are being taught to sew, which empowers them to work and begin earning a modest wage. Many of the women, working together on saris, are Muslim.

Objective - to learn about cross party relationships and meet leaders of the various parties

At the first meeting at Assembly House on the Monday the delegation met leaders of the various legislative parties. As there are a number of different parties the delegation did not have in-depth contact, but they participated in the meeting in Syed Nausher Hall and there were representatives at various meetings/events throughout the week. It was disappointing however, that the delegation did not get an opportunity to meet any representative from the Opposition Party, although it had been originally scheduled into the programme. They did not attend the meeting with the other legislative party members. The delegation is not in a position to comment on the reasons why, although there are evidently tensions between them and the Government about the TATA plant at Singur.

Objective - to discuss security and terrorism and the challenges for West Bengal

The delegation learnt about the security and terrorism challenges through the meeting with the Chief Minister and the meeting with the Standing Committee on Home, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Jails, Law & Judicial. Their main challenge is in the 300km border they share with Bangladesh. The Chief Minister stated that there were different terrorism groups operating inside Bangladesh, including Indian terrorist groups such as Alfa and Nada. There are also Islamic terrorist groups. West Bengal is currently trying to improve intelligence for terrorism. They would welcome help from the British government in communicating with Bangladesh the need to curb terrorism inside Bangladesh. There is

also growing political unrest in the Darjeeling region, as The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha is demanding a separate state of “Gorkhaland”. This has led to widespread demonstrations which are already beginning to affect tourism to the region.

The delegation learned in the Committee for Home, Personnel etc that terrorism had not yet been on the agenda. The Kolkata police said that there is not a special anti-terrorism law, although there has been demand for one. Discussion centred on how long suspects can be held in detention without trial. They can be held for up to 24 hours; if not charged they then have to go before a judiciary and if there is a case to make they can be held for a further 24 hrs and so on. There is no preventative detention in West Bengal. Suicide bombers are treated as terrorists.

Objective - to visit the Mother Theresa Missionaries of Charity

This objective was achieved with a visit to the Headquarters of Mother Theresa Missionaries of Charity and home to Mother Theresa before her death in 1997. Her work continues under Sister Nirmala, her appointed Successor. The delegation saw Mother Theresa’s tomb and her bedroom where she had meetings, studied and slept, and the museum where there are mementos to her life and work. The delegation also visited the orphanage and school next door which is home to babies and children up to approximately the age of 10 or 11. Delegates learned that they are fed and looked after and educated. The babies are found seriously malnourished, abandoned on the streets by the Sisters and taken into the Orphanage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CPA UK Branch is extremely grateful to the Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. The delegation are also deeply appreciative of all the hard work done by the protocol officers, public relation officers, Police Special Branch and other staff in West Bengal, who arranged such an interesting programme and to the Deputy Speaker and Chief Whip who received the delegation at the airport. Thanks also go to Mr Kevin McCole, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Deputy High Commission and all at the British High Commission for their kind support.

c) DOMINICA AND MONTSERRAT

DELEGATION

Leader: Rt Hon. Kevin Barron MP (Labour)

Members: Mr Harry Cohen MP (Labour)
Lord Lyndon Harrison (Labour)
Mrs Sharon Hodgson MP (Labour)
Mr Laurence Robertson MP (Conservative)
Mr Anthony Steen MP (Conservative)

Rt Hon. Kevin Barron MP was accompanied by Mrs Carol Barron, Mr Harry Cohen MP was accompanied by Mrs Ellen Cohen, Mrs Sharon Hodgson MP was accompanied by Mr Alan Hodgson, Mr Laurence Robertson was accompanied by Miss Annie Adams and Mr Anthony Steen MP was accompanied by Mrs Carolyn Steen. .

Miss Hatty Cooper, Office Manager of the CPA UK Branch, was the accompanying delegation secretary.

SUMMARY

In line with branch strategy, the CPA UK Branch sent a delegation to Montserrat and Dominica in April, on the invitation of the respective CPA Branches. We are most grateful for the extremely warm welcome and hospitality we received during the visit. We are pleased to have generally achieved all our objectives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

After consultation with the host branches, the FCO, DfID and the Caribbean Council the CPA UK Branch delegation set the following aims and objectives.

MONTSERRAT

Aim. To be briefed on current challenges in Montserrat.

Objectives. To:

- Visit reconstruction projects, with particular emphasis on medical, education and infrastructure works
- Explore disaster management and early warning systems.
- Discuss issues of migration.
- Learn about trade, tourism and development issues
- Discuss parliamentary practice and procedures with colleagues from CPA Montserrat Branch.

DOMINICA

Aim. To learn more about governance in Dominica.

Objectives. To:

- Discuss parliamentary practice and procedures with colleagues from CPA Dominica Branch
- Discuss interaction between political parties with colleagues from CPA Dominica Branch
- Learn more about domestic issues - education, health and policing in Dominica.
- Learn about trade and development issues
- Learn about environmental challenges and ecotourism.
- Be briefed on Dominica-UK issues

PROGRAMME

MONTSERRAT

Sunday 13 April: Arrival in Montserrat; met by the Hon. Joseph Meade, Speaker of the Legislative Council.

Monday 14 April: Meetings with HE the Governor, Mr Peter Waterworth, Hon. Chief Minister, Dr Lowell Lewis; Mini conference in the new cultural centre, with Members of the Legislative Council; Welcome reception hosted by HE the Governor, Mr Peter Waterworth.

Tuesday 15 April: Visit to Jackboy Hill, Lookout & Drummonds Housing, St John's Hospital, Montserrat Community College, Montserrat National Trust; Visit in to the exclusion zone, Plymouth and St George's Hill. Meeting with the Youth Parliament; Live press conference with Hon. Chief Minister, Dr Lowell Lewis; Reception at the cultural centre hosted by Hon. Chief Minister, Dr Lowell Lewis.

DOMINICA

Wednesday 16 April: Reception at the House of Assembly hosted by the Speaker, Hon. Alix Boyd Knights MHA.

Thursday 17 April: Meetings with Hon. Prime Minister, Mr Roosevelt Skerrit; Visit to Emerald Pool, Carib Territory, Cabrits Cruise Ship Berth and Fort Shirley in the National Park.

Friday 18 April: Meetings with HE the President, Dr Nicholas J O Liverpool DAH; Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. Alix Boyd Knights MHA; Leader of the Opposition; CPA general body; personnel from the Ministry of Education; Cultural evening at the Old Mill.

Saturday 19 April: Meetings with environmentalists and eco tourism personnel; Visit to Grotto Home for the Homeless; Operation Youthquake; Trafalgar Falls; Lunch at Papillotte hosted by ECIC Holdings Ltd; Visit to Soufriere/Scotts Head; Farewell reception at the House of Assembly.

Sunday 20 April: Departure day.

OUTCOMES

Objective - Visit reconstruction projects, with particular emphasis on medical, education and infrastructure works.

The government faces continual challenges with reconstruction and repopulation in Montserrat. Prior to the volcanic eruptions of 1997 the population stood at approximately 12000, having dropped to 3000 the current numbers suggest that the population has expanded to around 5000. The Government's key objective is to expand the population to 8000 by 2012 and 1500 by 2020. While some of those Montserratians that had relocated are starting slowly to return home bringing with them vital skills needed to redevelop their island, repatriation is proving to be extremely difficult. Many home owners whose houses were destroyed by the volcano were still paying mortgages on these properties it is only recently that the government has been in a position to wipe clean mortgage debts. Insurance policies and coverage have been cancelled, making it a great risk for people to start rebuilding their homes and their lives. Montserrat remains dependent on the repatriation of skilled workers and consumers to bolster the economy.

Despite two thirds of the island being obliterated by the volcano, 1800 acres of land remain unaffected and open to development. The Hon. Chief Minister, Dr Lowell Lewis stressed that it would be favorable for the UK to adapt its development policy to front load monetary aid to Montserrat by providing £50million over two years rather than spreading £100million over ten years. Constitutional limitations restricts Montserrat from accepting loans from international organizations, the Hon. Chief Minister suggested that Montserrat needs the assistance of the private sector to really develop and the constitution should be altered accordingly.



Delegates with the Hon. Speaker, Mr. Joseph Meade and members of the Youth Parliament of Montserrat.

Objective - Explore disaster management and early warning systems.

Hon. Margaret Dyer-Howe MP discussed with the delegates the challenges of disaster management in Montserrat at a mini-conference in the newly constructed cultural center. The possibility of further volcanic eruptions in Montserrat is an ever-present threat. Volcanology is not an exact science, which makes redevelopment in Montserrat difficult. The zone of exclusion safeguards against the dangers of volcanic eruptions, but at the same time prevents habitation is over half the island.

Objective - Discuss issues of migration eruptions.

The devastating effects of Hurricane Hugo in the mid-nineties followed by the loss of over two thirds of the island through multiple volcanic eruptions have led to the migration of 70% of the islands population to join diasporas in countries such as Antigua and the United Kingdom. The greatest problem facing Montserrat today is the lack of repatriation.

Objective - Learn about trade, tourism and development issues.

Reconstruction in Montserrat is focused on sustainable development. The Hon. Speaker, Mr Joseph Meade stated that building developments have to be hardwearing and able to withstand the environmental challenges posed by living with an active volcano. The Hon. Speaker suggested that aid donated to Montserrat by the United Kingdom in the form of housing was a quick fix solution and that ten years after construction half of the houses are no longer habitable. Sustainable developments will stop Montserrat from having to continually ask over and again for aid. Building standards are now very high in Montserrat; all new builds have to be able to withstand earthquakes that could measure up to .7 on the Richter scale.

The development of the new capital, Little Bay has been the main focus for the Legislative Council. Craicom has put forward plans to give Montserrat a grant of US\$10 million to develop a marina. A functional port would enable charter yachts and cruise ships to dock in Montserrat boosting funding for taxi drivers, restaurateurs and other tourist related industries. So far the development has met with a series of obstructions. Development economists are encouraging the construction of an offshore marina, but studies have shown that this would be disastrous for the ecology so currently the port development is being put on hold.

Objective - Discuss parliamentary practice and procedures with colleagues from CPA Montserrat Branch.

As an overseas territory the Legislative Council has certain constitutional limitations and there are often difficulties between the Council and the Governor who retains the power to block legislation on foreign affairs, defense and the economy. Hon. David S Brandt, Leader of the Opposition suggested that members of the Legislative Council should have access to Ministers in the United Kingdom responsible for Montserrat rather than having to continually go through the Governor who in turn translates the requests to the appropriate Ministers. Hon. David S Brandt suggested that the delegates raise this issue in the House.

Objective – Discuss Parliamentary practice and procedures with colleagues from CPA Dominica Branch.

Meetings with the CPA Dominica Branch gave the delegates an informative overview of the Parliamentary practice and procedures employed in Dominica. The main discussion topics included the role of the media, parliamentary practice and standards & privileges. There was so much discussion between Dominican and British colleagues that the meeting ran over and had to be called to a halt. The issue of pay rates and expenses dominated the conversation.

Objective – Discuss interaction between political parties with colleagues from CPA Dominica Branch.

The delegates met individually with the Prime Minister, President, Hon. Speaker and Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition expressed his discomfort with the current political system in

Dominica and suggested that the Government and Opposition would welcome a parliamentary strengthening team headed by Mr Speaker.



Delegates with HE the President, Dr Nicholas J O Liverpool DAH

Objective - Learn more about domestic issues - education, health and policing in Dominica.

The delegation programme focused mainly on education in Dominica and a meeting with five personnel from the Ministry of Education unveiled the biggest education challenge is lack of resources and educational officers. Funding assistance for education comes from UNICEF, USAID and DFID but despite this pre-school teachers are not paid for by the government so parents cannot pay for their children's pre-school education they will not receive it. The Canadian Association of Teachers assists Dominica with teacher training programmes; the delegation suggested that teachers from the UK could be sponsored to visit Dominica in school holidays to provide further aid for teacher training.

Objective - Learn about trade and development issues.

The delegation spent their first morning in Dominica meeting with the young Prime Minister who had been a prolific member of Dominica's youth parliament in the 1980s. Discussion revolved around fiscal policy and the Prime Ministers attempts to diversify the economy with the help of OECD and IMF. While not all the policies implicated have seen success so far, the economy has been significantly stabilized.

In 2007 Hurricane Dean caused EC\$ 200 million worth of damage on the island. Following this the increasing price of fuel has seen pressure mounting from the community to remove excess tax on fuel however the economic implications of this would be too series to offset. The government aided by French, Venezuelan and European Union sponsored specialists are exploring geothermal energy alternatives. Venezuela has significant experience in hydropower as 70% of Venezuelan energy is produced this way. Currently Dominica relies on 40% hydro-electricity and 60% fossil fuels. There are currently discussions regarding the construction of a Venezuelan sponsored oil refinery, which would boost Dominica's economy but would clash with Dominica's ecotourist image.

Objective - Learn about environmental challenges and ecotourism.

The Minister of Trade & Industry along with colleagues from Discover Dominica, Forestry and Environmental divisions briefed delegates on Dominica's tourist industry and how the current trend in ecotourism was being utilized by marketing Dominica as an ecotourist destination. Difficulties with

landfill sites, limited recycling and suggestions of an oil refinery are challenging Dominica's ecotourist image

Cruise ships and charter yachts do visit Dominica, but they tend to be confined to docking in the capital Roseau, which can cause great damage to the surrounding coral reefs. In order to make tourism sustainable alternative tourist sites need to be expanded. This expansion would increase the number of Dominicans employed in the tourist industry.

Objective - Be briefed on Dominica-UK issues.

There is a huge amount of foreign investment in Dominica, including close relationships with Taiwan and China, but there is limited UK involvement. Comparisons were made between the Dominica – UK relationship and that of the neighboring island of Guadalupe, which has benefited heavily from being part of Metropolitan France. Suggestions were made by the delegation of greater involvement by the UK in Dominica from assisting with funding for the Grotto Home for the Homeless to sending parliamentary strengthening delegations to ensure the protection of a strong democracy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CPA UK Branch is extremely grateful to the Speakers of the Legislative Council of Montserrat and the House of Assembly in Dominica for inviting the CPA UK Branch to Montserrat and Dominica. Our thanks to all Members and staff who were involved in the visit for their warmth, generosity and friendliness with which the Delegation was received and for the great care and attention to detail that went in to every aspect of the programme.

The Delegation also wishes to thank HE Governor of Montserrat, Mr Peter Waterworth; the High Commissioner in Barbados, Mr Duncan Taylor and the non-resident High Commissioner for Dominica, Mr Alan Drury.

d) GUYANA

A workshop focussing on parliament and the media, organised in conjunction with the Parliament of Guyana and the CPA Secretariat, took place in Georgetown Guyana from 28-31 May 2008. Baroness Amos and Mr John Heppell MP attended the workshop on behalf of the UK parliament to join the small team facilitating the workshop.

Baroness Amos writes:

“John Heppell and Baroness Amos participated in the CPA workshop on Parliament and the Media in Guyana 28-31 May 2007. Parliamentary colleagues also attended from Trinidad and Tobago and Bermuda. The workshop was extremely well attended and was supported by the Government and Opposition parties as well as representatives from the media. Access to the media is a hotly contested issue in Guyana and there was lively debate about de-regulation, nationwide coverage and access for Opposition parties. Other issues covered included Freedom of Information legislation and its implementation, coverage for Parliamentary speeches and debates and establishing systems to give the public access to Parliament through television and radio.

A number of recommendations were agreed, the majority requiring action by Parliament. We hope that the recommendations will be implemented and will lead to a further strengthening of Parliament in Guyana.”

e) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, POST ELECTION SEMINAR

Following elections held on 5th November 2007 Mr Roger Gale MP participated as a facilitator in a post-election seminar in Trinidad on 24 and 25 June 2008. Also taking part as principal facilitators were The Speaker of the Trinidad Parliament, The Hon. Barendra Sinanan, The Hon. Sarah Flood-Beaubrun MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly (St. Lucia), Mr. Michael Peart, MP, former minister and Speaker of the House of Jamaica, Mr Michael Mansoor, Chairman of the 1st National Caribbean Bank, Mr. John Martin, Chairman on the Integrity Commission, Mr. Blair Armitage, Principal Clerk, Legislative Systems and Broadcasting Directorate (Canada) Ms. Gillian Lucky, Attorney at Law (Trinidad) and Ms. Jacqui Sampson, Clerk of the House (Trinidad).

On arrival Mr Gale was met by Clerks from the Trinidad & Tobago Parliament and on that evening attended a pre-conference briefing hosted by the CPA Trinidad Branch and attended by the Speaker.

The first session commenced in the Parliament Chamber, The Red House, with many new and veteran Members of the PNM (People's National Movement) governing party and Independent Senators present. The main Opposition UNC (United National Congress) Party sadly declined to attend. The proceedings were opened by Mr Michael Peart MP in his capacity as the Regional Representative of the CPA International Executive Committee, and participants were welcomed by the Speaker, The Hon. Barendra ("Barry") Sinanan MP.

First-day sessions included presentations and discussions relating to The Development of the Commonwealth and the Role of the CPA (Ms. Jacqui Sampson), Parliamentary Democracy, Privileges and Immunities (Mr Roger Gale MP), Ethics, Accountability and Members' Interests (Mr John Martin), The Role of the Presiding Officer (Mr Michael Peart MP), Legislative Drafting (Ms Dana Seetahal SC) and Practice, Procedure and Standing Orders (Mr Blair Armitage). On the evening of 24th June Facilitators and Members attended a dinner hosted by the Speaker of the House and continued discussions.

The second day of the seminar commenced with a spirited dialogue about the Role of the Backbencher and the Role of the Opposition (Mr Roger Gale MP) and continued with Aspects of Debates (Mr Blair Armitage), The Committee System, (Professor Ramesh Deosaran), Financial Scrutiny of the Executive (Mr Michael Peart MP), Parliamentary Broadcasting and the Media (Mr Juhel Browne, political journalist), and concluded with a session debating the Role of Women in Parliament (Ms Diana Mahabir-Wyatt, former independent senator).

Following the conclusion of the Seminar Members of the Houses, Clerks and Facilitators were invited to visit the Caroni Swamp Bird Sanctuary and to see the Scarlet Ibis flying home to roost from their feeding grounds in the estuary - a truly magnificent sight. In the evening Members attended a dinner hosted jointly by the Speaker and the President of the Senate and Vice-President of the republic, Mr Danny Montano.

It was felt a sadness that the main Opposition decided not to attend as their Members, mainly experienced former MPs, could have made a significant contribution to the deliberations.

Questions arose surrounding the suitability of "the Westminster model" for small parliaments: most Government Party Members in Trinidad and Tobago hold Ministerial portfolios and this inhibits the potential for legislative Standing and Select Committees which would be difficult, with relatively few backbench Members, to man.

Overall, participants were pleased to indicate that the seminar had been a worthwhile investment of time and money and a success, and it was clearly particularly appreciated by the very many newly-elected Members of Parliament present.

f) SEYCHELLES

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WORKSHOP IN THE SEYCHELLES

DELEGATION

Lord Grocott (*Labour*) - Leader

Roger Gale MP (*Conservative*)

David Natzler (*Principal Clerk, Table Office, House of Commons*)

Andrew Walker (*Director-General of Resources, House of Commons*)

SUMMARY

The workshop resulted from a request by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles to the CPA UK asking for capacity building assistance for the National Assembly. The workshop took place around the time of the fifteenth anniversary of the restoration of multi-party elections in the Seychelles which had followed a period of one party rule.

The UK delegation received a warm welcome from the Speaker, Dr Patrick Herminie, a member of the ruling Seychelles Peoples Progressive Front (SPPF) and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Wavel Ramkalawan, Seychelles National party (SNP).

The two-day workshop was extremely well attended by all the Members of the National Assembly, by the Officers of Parliament, by members of the media, and by representatives of groups from outside Parliament. It took place at a sensitive time between Government and Opposition following a controversial by-election caused by an Opposition member challenging a ruling by the Speaker, then resigning and being successfully re-elected.

The Workshop, though frequently involving lively debate with widely differing opinions, was extremely constructive. The breakout sessions with small groups, representative of both parties, were particularly useful. Much of the debate focused on specific practical ways in which the powers and status of the Assembly and its members could be enhanced. The UK delegation on returning to the UK prepared a paper summarising a number of the key points which was then sent to leading members of the National Assembly.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To educate and strengthen capacity building of the National Assembly of Seychelles and key stakeholders with particular reference to four key areas:

- The separation of powers
- Freedom of speech and the right to reply
- Keeping order in parliament
- Standards and ethics for parliamentarians

THE PROGRAMME

Monday 21 July - Welcome and briefing by the British High Commissioner, Mr Fergus Cochrane-Dyett; Meetings with: the Speaker; the Leader of the Opposition; Observance of the National Assembly in session (including a welcome from the floor by the Speaker and by other Members followed by a debate on proposed new legislation on drug control and asset seizure).

Tuesday 22 July – (Workshop) ‘Separation of Powers’ led by Andrew Walker; Division into four Workshops chaired by each of the four members of the UK delegation, followed by report back sessions;

'Freedom of Speech and Right of Reply' led by David Natzler; Dinner with a small number of National Assembly Members including the Speaker, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

Wednesday 23 July – (Workshop) 'Keeping Order in the National Assembly' led by Lord Grocott; Workshops on: The Powers of the Speaker (including the rights and wrongs of excluding members or suspending a sitting), The Rules of Debate, Acceptable Language in Debate and The Role of the Whips followed by report back sessions; 'Standards and Ethics for Parliamentarians' led by Roger Gale; Reception with local guests at the British High Commissioner's Residence.

OUTCOMES

The Separation of Powers - Discussion focused on the role of the Speaker highlighting clear divisions between the views of Government and Opposition Members. The Opposition felt that the Speaker's position as a key member of the ruling party was inappropriate. The Government Members pointed out that they too often disagreed with rulings of the Speaker and that was an inevitable characteristic of any Speaker in any Parliament. Various suggestions were made, including the possibility of there being an additional Deputy Speaker role (there is only one at present who is a member of the governing party) which could be filled by an Opposition Member.

Freedom of Speech and Right of Reply - The role of the media was prominent in the discussion. Currently there is a daily government paper and weekly party political alternatives. Television and radio are dominated by the Government. An important characteristic of the discussion was the fact that in a country as small as the Seychelles – just 82,000 people – everyone knows everyone else and most have done since childhood. There was an extensive discussion on parliamentary privilege and the responsibilities on Members about how they use it. Discussion also included the way in which the business of the House was arranged with the familiar disagreements between Government and Opposition about the allocation of time.

Standards and Ethics for Parliamentarians – There was a wide-ranging discussion including the question of the responsibility of the media to accurately report parliamentary debates and the work of members including their constituency work. It was felt that parliament needed more resources with which to inform the public and especially young people, about its work. Concerns were raised about difficulties experienced by members in acquiring the information they needed both for debates and constituency problems. It was hoped that the new parliamentary building being built would improve matters by providing proper library and research facilities.

CONCLUSIONS

During the wind up session at the end of the two day conference, there was widespread appreciation of the value of the work that had been done and of the focus it gave to the fundamental importance of the National Assembly in the fifteen year old multi-party constitution of the Seychelles. Both Government and Opposition members left with a better understanding of the challenges and responsibilities faced by each other and the need to have proper procedures to balance their respective rights. There was also strong agreement on the mutual interest of all parties to have a properly resourced Parliament serving its Members. There was also agreement on the need to improve the ways in which the public at large obtained an understanding of the work of Parliament in what is still a relatively new democracy.

g) 33RD REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN, THE AMERICAS AND THE ATLANTIC

Ms Geraldine Smith MP writes:

The Conference was held in the Cuisinart Hotel in Anguilla, and delegates attended from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica,

Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts, Nevis, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

There were two observers: myself and Mr Sukh Dhliwal MP from Canada.

The Opening Ceremony began with the procession of flags and delegations with the National Anthems being played. It was striking how many times the British National Anthem was played. There was an introduction by the Chairman Mr Kenneth Hodge who is Principal Assistant Secretary to the Chief Minister in Anguilla. Welcome remarks by Hon Edison Baird followed by Governor Andrew George, Hon Hubert Hughes and Hon Osbourne Fleming.

The main opening address was made by Mr David Carty who is the Speaker of the Anguilla Assembly and Chairman of the Regional CPA and President of the Anguilla Branch. A vote of thanks was given by Hon Keesha Webster.

The Conference contained sessions on 'True Independence of the Legislative, growing pains of development and the existence of over development, looking at the effects of over development and practical safeguards to address this issue and also whether or not foreign investment was more of a liability than an asset in the Caribbean. The final sessions included a debate on the effect of climate change on development and also a debate on offshore finance.

The main debate was around the effect of development. Concern was expressed by delegates about large investors buying up land and ensuing environmental problems. Beaches had been destroyed in Jamaica owing to these problems. Immigration was an issue on many of the islands with populations almost doubling on some small islands. There were concerns about the impact immigration had on the provision of education, health and housing. Many delegates spoke of the need to 'keep special' the culture and identity of the Caribbean Islands and also the importance of Education. Family breakdown, drugs, crime and changing lifestyles were also discussed.

I found the whole conference fascinating and many of the issues and problems discussed very familiar. The quality of debate was excellent and very lively on some occasions! I was particularly impressed by the Speaker of Anguilla who is an extremely articulate and charismatic politician. The hospitality of the Government, Parliament and people of Anguilla was first class. Not only does Anguilla have outstanding beauty, wonderful beaches and sunshine every day, but its people are a real asset being so warm, open, welcoming and friendly.

It was a real privilege to be an observer at this conference and to meet and learn from the delegates in attendance.

i) AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr David Borrow MP represented the Branch at the Africa Regional Conference in Zambia 11 – 18 July.

j) CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The UK Branch was represented by:

Ms Claire Curtis-Thomas MP (Leader)
Lord Corbett of Castle Vale

Ms Curtis-Thomas writes:

THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Delegates from every Province of Canada attended this important regional conference. Canadian delegates included parliamentary, assembly and council members. In addition, apart from the UK delegation, Commonwealth representatives were present from Australia, Trinidad and Tobago. Approximately 160 individuals were present.

The five day regional conference was preceded by an entire day of debates on women's issues with specific focus on increasing the number of women in public life. The UK and Canada share a significant number of challenges in this area, and are deploying similar strategies to improve the current poor levels of female involvement in every aspect of political life.

During recent elections held throughout Canada, young voters were targeted with a high profile advertising campaign, the results were unimpressive.

There was general agreement that both women and young people needed to be at the centre of ongoing campaigns to ensure that every part of Canadian society was represented at every level of government. Remuneration was not seen as a barrier to entry, however, there was agreement that inadequate child care facilities militated against mothers with school age children (and without any significant financial or family support) from even considering a career in politics.

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SUMMARY

Each day of the conference was dominated by a theme, these included: sustainability, governance, economic performance, voter inclusion.



From left to right – CPA representative from Trinidad and Tobago, Claire Curtis-Thomas MP, The Attorney General of Sierra Leone, The Speaker of the Nova Scotia Parliament and his wife.

SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

Government representatives from all over Canada presented a number of papers on the subject of sustainability within the context of governmental procedures. It was very interesting to learn about how each province/local council managed its business. There were extensive discussions on the benefits and shortfalls of various committee structures and terms of reference including select and standing committees, and the number of weeks that should be allocated to significant annual bills such as the Finance Bill. It became apparent that the UK is falling well short of the time allocated to the Finance Bill in some of the Canadian states - states with a twentieth of the UK population! As far as the Canadians are concerned, the UK blue print of parliamentary operating procedures is now unique to the UK, there are some structural similarities but generally the robust UK system has been adapted to meet local requirements and preferences.



ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

I did not appreciate this fact before my visit but there is an acute shortage of people in Canada and every province is desperately in need of a significant number of professionals and technicians to fill roles either in the private or public sector. Some provinces fare a little better than others when it comes to attracting qualified individuals, because simply they are more attractive places to live, they may be warmer or offer a broader cultural experience, good hospitals and good public transport.

Manitoba is a state which is a larger geographic area than the UK. It has a population of 50,000, offers a fantastic quality of life, but is freezing for most of the year!

The demographics of the country match that of most western nations, too many old people and simply not enough young people to pay for them. This has resulted in a stream of anti age discrimination related legislation, and a significant number of campaigns to encourage a healthy lifestyle to reduce the burden on the aged on the health system.

The general view is that current economic performance is directly linked to the lack of population, more people would mean a better economic performance.

The country has enormous natural resources which includes oil. Canada is the USA biggest supplier of oil and gas. Forestry and water continue to offer attractive investment prospects.



VOTER INCLUSION

There seems to be significant evidence of community cohesion, with the understandable exception of the involvement of young people in political activities within each province. Cultural diversity is appreciated and exploited to support a significant tourist industry.

There was a limited discussion on the possibility of holding a referendum on whether the Queen ought to remain as the Head of State, but the collective view was that current arrangements would endure, as they were beneficial to the nation and did not impede its progress or development in any way.

Views were expressed about the Canadian involvement in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, with most delegates agreeing that the war in Iraq was a bad thing and based on a false premise.

CONCLUSION

Lord Corbett and I were present in the conference chamber throughout all the proceedings, and we played a full and active part in all debates and question sessions. We were well received and it was a privilege to attend this event.

The Canadians are very hospitable; I do hope that we might have the chance to repay their extraordinary generosity and kindness.

To round off the event, the Mayor hosted a Nova Scotia supper party, my trusty assistant equipped himself well by singing a number of verses of “My old Colonial Boy“, these were initially greeted by roars of approval, but I am afraid to say that at the end of verse 5 Lord Corbett witnessed a significant number of white flags and when he didn’t take the hint and leave the stage at his earliest convenience, hitherto good natured Canadians threw bread rolls at him. Lord Corbett mistook these assaults for a kind of perverted approval and promptly sank to his knees to continue his wailing hound like performance. He rose finally and bowed to all, I couldn’t discern what was being shouted to him at this moment, but I distinctly heard someone saying “Thank God, we’re over here, and that sort of insanity is over there.”

j) TANZANIA

DELEGATION

Rt Hon. Elliot Morley MP (Leader)
Mr John Barrett MP
Lord Bhatia of Hampton OBE
Lord Jones of Cheltenham
Lord Lea of Crondall OBE
Mr John Mann MP

Miss Lucy Moore – Secretary

Mr Morley and Lord Jones were accompanied.

AIM

To learn about governance in Tanzania from Parliamentary colleagues and other experts

OBJECTIVES

- To gain awareness of political diversity in Tanzania by considering:
 - The role of religion and interfaith relations
 - Opposition politics
 - The relationship between mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar
- To learn about Tanzania’s role in supranational structures in view of Tanzania’s positions as Chair of the AU Assembly and the SADC Troika on Politics, Defence and Security.
- To learn about the major development challenges faced by Tanzania, particularly in the areas of:

- Aid effectiveness
- Education
- HIV/AIDs
- The roles of non-state actors in poverty reduction; for example NGOs, small businesses and microfinancing initiatives

- To learn more about Tanzania's agricultural economy, including how Tanzania is adapting to the challenges caused by climate change.

SUMMARY

In line with branch strategy, the CPA UK Branch sent a Delegation to Tanzania in July, at the invitation of the Tanzania CPA Branch. We are most grateful for the extremely warm welcome and hospitality we received during the visit and most objectives were achieved.

PROGRAMME

Monday 21 July
Dar es Salaam Call on the British High Commission for a briefing with British High Commissioner HE Philip Parnham, and DFID colleagues. Briefing at the British Council Office followed by small roundtables with guests from varying organisations. Meeting with Clerk of the Parliaments, Foreign Minister, Leader of the CUF Party, Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba. Evening reception hosted by the High Commissioner at his residence.

Tuesday 22 July
Morogoro
Dodoma Travelled by road from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma via Morogoro. Visited local street children project and Morogoro School. Evening dinner with members of CPA Tanzania Branch.

Wednesday 23 July
Dodoma Introduction to the Chamber, meetings with members of the CPA Executive Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Prime Minister Hon. Mizengo Pinda MP. Afternoon spent viewing the site for the new Dodoma University.

Thursday 24 July
Dodoma Meeting with Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Hamid Rashid MP, visit to World Vision Offices, meetings with Parastatal Organisations Committee, Local Authorities Accounts Committee, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Acting Director for Environment Division of Vice President's Office and the Finance Committee

Friday 25 July
Zanzibar Meeting with Deputy Chief Minister of Zanzibar, followed by meeting with Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives, Clerk of the House and members of the CPA Zanzibar Branch.

REPORT

Objective - To gain awareness of political diversity in Tanzania

During the visit the delegates learnt much about the diversity in Tanzania's parliament as well as the issues it is facing as it works towards multiparty democracy. The meetings held with various members also served to highlight the ongoing issues with the Union between Zanzibar and the Mainland.

President Kikwete held 80% of the popular vote in the last elections and the Bunge has a total of 323 members. Through meetings with opposition leaders as well as the Acting Clerk of the Parliament the Delegation learnt that the CUF is the key opposition party in Parliament and advertises itself as the 'Justice Party' – they focus on exposure of corruption but they are under resourced and get little notice in parliament although they are very good at using the media. The Opposition does have the opportunity to introduce bills and the clerks provide the technical assistance for it. The opposition are doing better and it was a significant step for them to present an alternative budget. The Headquarters for CUF is in Dar es Salaam, they are the leading opposition party in terms of votes as they hold 14% of the popular vote. However they did not win a seat in the mainland but in Zanzibar. In the mainland parliament they have appointed members of parliament (appointed). The base of CUF support in the mainland is on the coastal zone, in Dar es Salaam and around Lake Victoria.

In terms of electoral limitations, a constituency member from the mainland cannot run for a constituency in Zanzibar. Zanzibar itself is antonymous but members there have the right to contest positions in mainland Tanzania. The arrangement is similar to that between Scotland and the UK Parliament.



Delegates with Hon Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Pandu Ameir Kificho, Hon Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr Ibrahim Mzee Ibrahim, and members of the Executive Committee of the CPA Zanzibar at the House of Representatives

Having only recently moved towards a multi party system, there is dominance of a single party in the system. Currently Tanzania does not have an independent electoral commission. The CUF has been calling for constitutional reforms and for recognition of the problems in the union - Zanzibar feels that the union may swallow them and during the visit there continued to be suspensions of business in the Zanzibari Parliament due to discord between the parties.

The Tanzanian Parliament is now televised and is widely reported in the media, and committee work is now open to media access as well. However there is the question of the ability of MPs to scrutinise legislation, there being such a small number in opposition, and this was highlighted by the Acting Clerk.

Objective - To learn about Tanzania's role in supranational structures



Meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Bernard Kamillius Membe MP

During the visit the delegates met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Bernard Kamillius Membe MP who discussed at length Tanzania's role in promoting peace at a regional level, specifically referring to Zimbabwe, Sudan and Burundi. On Zimbabwe, Mr Membe indicated that the biggest challenge for SADC is to stop sanctions being placed on Zimbabwe as the best path is to get maximum cooperation from the parties. The credibility of SADC, AU and Zimbabwe depends on whether they can strike a deal and keep to it. In SADC and elsewhere there are extreme views both for and against Mugabe, for example, the Democratic Republic of Congo is supportive of him. SADC itself has cracks but it does come together, while the AU itself is united in its desire to have a Government of National Unity in place in Zimbabwe as a transitional measure until elections.

Mr Membe also discussed the indictment of President Bashir in Sudan. The AU Peace and Security Council has the opportunity to read the report from the ICC and finds no fault with the move to indict President Bashir, and Tanzania is a signatory to the ICC. However Mr Membe discussed the implications should the prosecution goes ahead that may jeopardise the peacekeeping missions both in place and ready to deploy to Darfur. In view of these situations, Tanzania has decided that they wish to finish the Darfur exercise first, allow the South to have elections (as there is a fear that they will be disrupted) and then take him then. If we don't make peace in Darfur and stop the military moving out of the barracks and develop democracy in the South there will be a dictatorship.

Tanzania is also heavily involved in the ongoing mediation between the parties to the Burundian conflict. Mr Membe told the delegates that the talks were going well and the outlook was positive.

Objective – To learn about the major development challenges facing Tanzania

Tanzania's very large population has a GDP Per Capita of not much more than US\$1 per day. In real terms, this is the same level as in the 1960s. Maternal health is poor with one in 180 mothers dying from childbirth. In terms of power generation, Tanzania's power consumption is about equivalent to the borough of Bromley in London. Power generation relies heavily on hydropower but this has been problematic in recent years due to drought. The national budget is approximately US\$6 million including the direct budgetary assistance from the UK. This is equivalent to about 3% of the annual budget for the NHS. In terms of macro economics, growth is currently averaging at 7%.



Visit to a local project for Street Children in Morogoro

The UK channels in the region of £130 million to Tanzania (this is up from £60 million in FY2001-2002). £103 million of this is purely in bilateral budget support and there is £26 million in the budget to fund smaller projects. The UK, World Bank, African Development Bank and others donor partners act as single body as best they can. Because the support the UK gives to Tanzania is structured as budget support the development of the government's ability to manage its funds was a major part of the discussions with Tanzanian members during the visit. In Tanzania there are mechanisms for budget support accountability. Corruption does make direct budget support a hard sell, however it is believed that the same if not more is lost through support of individual programmes instead.

There is a new procurement regulatory body, the National Audit Committee is strong, and there have been recent public resignations of Ministers and even the Prime Minister over corruption; all of which bodes well for the future. The delegates met with the Public Accounts Committee which considers its work as vital to the UK obtaining value for money, as well as other committees dealing with oversight. A recurring problem with all parliamentary activities is the lack of capacity. It was reported that the Tanzanian Revenue Authority has become very successful and professional in recent times and has increased revenue greatly through efficiency. However there is still a very small tax base.

During the meetings with Members and ministers in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma the feedback on the system of coordinated budgetary support was positive. There was dissent from this opinion voiced by the Zanzibari members who indicated that, contrary to the view of Tanzania's central government, Zanzibar was now worse off in terms of development aid than they were under the programme-led development funding of the past.

Objective – To learn more about Tanzania’s agricultural economy, and how Tanzania is adapting to the challenges caused by climate change

More than 75% of the rural areas are dependent on agriculture; however spending in that sector is only 6% of the national budget. In Zanzibar we learnt that the export trade for fruit is currently not good. Mangos are exported to Arabic countries and this is seen as an area of expansion. Zanzibar currently does not have deep sea fishing but that is considered another area for expansion and investment as the fish stocks are untouched. However the coral reefs are seeing the effect of climate change and pollution – there is sea bleaching particularly on the industry side and causing acid rain.

During the visit the delegates met with Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hon Ezekiel Maige MP and the Acting Director of Environment Division in the Vice President’s Office, Mr Mugurusi to discuss the tourism industry, climate change, and protection of the environment while undertaking much needed development. There was particular discussion of the plans for development at Lake Natron and around the Ngogogoro Crater.

The Ngorogoro Conservation authority is independent and the plan is to control human activities near the crater. Agriculture is banned in the area – the situation is delicate but the authority has acquired the land outside of the crater and is paying compensation to those willing to move out.

The discussion surrounding Lake Natron is a telling example of the trade offs that may be made between environmental conservation and development to benefit the people of Tanzania. In this case there is a conflict between the need for investment as opposed to the only breeding culture for these flamingos. The original plan for the factory was for it to be 2½ km away from the Lake shore. It became clear under the first environmental assessment that it wouldn’t be proper to have the plant there and alternative proposals were being drawn up during the visit. The new proposal is to build the plant 32 km from the lake so the materials will be taken from the lake to the plant to be processed. This solves part of the problem in terms of the noise from the factory disrupting the birds, but there is still concern as to the effects of the extraction of the raw materials – as they are necessary for the algae in the lake and the ecosystem dependent on it. Hence a new assessment has been commissioned and the results of this are awaited.

Under the initial proposal, Tanzania believes it would earn approximately \$3.5million per year for 45 years. It is claimed that tourism from the flamingos currently only bears about \$600,000 per year as the birds only breed at certain points. Tanzania understand that their neighbours benefit much more from the Flamingos and that this may influence their opposition to the development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CPA UK Branch is extremely grateful to the Speakers of the National Assembly of Tanzania and the House of Representatives of Zanzibar for inviting the CPA UK Branch and for their hospitality during our visit. Our thanks to all Members and staff who were involved in the visit for their warmth, generosity and friendliness with which the Delegation was received and for the great care and attention to detail that went in to every aspect of the programme.

The Delegation also wishes to thank HE Philip Parnham, the High Commissioner in Tanzania, Mr John Bradshaw, Political and Press Officer for the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam, and Mr Ian Shapiro, Senior Governance Advisor for DFID Tanzania.

K) AUSTRALIA

At the invitation of CPA Australia, the following delegation visited Australia 18 August – 4 September 2008:

Rt Hon John McFall MP (Labour/Co-operative) (Leader)

Lord Faulkner of Worcester (Labour)
Rt Hon Keith Hill MP (Labour)
Mr Laurence Robertson MP (Conservative)
Mr Andrew Rosindell MP (Conservative)
Lord Snape (Labour)

Mr McFall, Mr Hill, Mr Robertson and Lord Snape were accompanied by their spouses.

The aim and objectives of the visit were:

AIM

To strengthen relations and understanding between parliamentarians at Westminster and parliamentarians in Canberra, Western Australia and Northern Territory

OBJECTIVES

To learn about the political developments in Australia during the last 12 months and in:

Canberra – the Commonwealth of Australia. To be briefed on and discuss:

- Foreign affairs and international development
- Security
- Immigration
- Climate change

Western Australia. To discuss:

- Challenges of healthcare and education in urban and rural areas of Western Australia
- Development of industries in Western Australia
- Climate change

Northern Territory. To discuss:

- Agricultural development and the environment
- Climate change

Rt Hon. John McFall MP writes:

INTRODUCTION

This visit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation to Western Australia, Northern Territory, Sydney and Canberra took place against a background of total dominance by the Australian Labor Party in both the Federal and State parliaments. The Federal election was won by Kevin Rudd in November 2007 with a ringing declaration to sign up to the Kyoto protocol. Consequently climate change was a dominant theme in our discussions at Federal and State level. Given the growing ties between Australia and Asia, especially China, this issue featured in our discussions, particularly in Western Australia.

During our visit, snap elections took place in Western Australia and the Northern Territory with adverse consequences for the ruling Labor party. The issue of the “toggle effect” whereby electors vote for different parties at different levels in Federal and State elections was remarkable. This was a hot topic for discussion between members of the delegation and our hosts.

Another hugely important issue which we looked at and discussed in depth was the generational plan of action for the Aboriginal people following the controversial publication of the *Suffer Little Children* report, which prompted the then Federal government to intervene in the affairs of the Northern Territory.

CANBERRA



Pictured with Australian High Commissioner, Rt Hon Helen Liddell, are (left to right) Laurence Robertson MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Lord Snape, Rt Hon John McFall MP and Rt Hon Keith Hill MP

Our three-day visit to Canberra was the most intense and politically revealing of the visit. We commenced with a comprehensive briefing from the High Commissioner the Rt Hon Helen Liddell.

A number of issues were discussed, and these included:

ECONOMY: At the time of our visit Interest Rates were cut 25 basis points to 7 per cent. This was the first reduction for eight years and was much welcomed since the indebtedness of households and individuals is a major talking point. Two thirds of Australia's export revenue is with Asia and this is driving the economy with prospects undiminished for the foreseeable future in the following areas:

- Science and Innovation, where climate change, bioscience and renewable energy technology were highlighted.
- Defence and Security. Australia's guarantee of economic security is its good relations with other countries in the region. Notably, China has just overtaken Japan as Australia's biggest trading partner. There is little difference between the main parties on Security and Defence. Since assuming government, Labor has withdrawn combat troops from Iraq. However there are still over 1,000 members of the Australian Defence Forces in Iraq with a similar number in Afghanistan. These troops are performing a major mentoring role with the Afghan National Army.

- Visas. There are 35,000 visas issued annually to those with a British ancestry link. The new UK points-based entry system is much clearer and much more to the liking of Australians. A total of 65,000 British passports are issued every year. There is a proposal to close the office in Canberra and transfer to Wellington. This appeared to the delegation to be a short-sighted, cost-cutting idea given that the enterprise is presently profitable and the prospect of damage to the existing warm and fruitful relationship between both countries and their citizens. There are 1.4 million British people living in Australia and almost one million British visitors per annum to the country, where biometric finger-printing and photography was successfully introduced last year.

We were enthusiastically welcomed to the Federal (Commonwealth) Parliament and lunch was provided on the first day by the CPA chair, Arch Bevis MP. There was a full turnout of over 30 MPs and Senators and this meeting established the warm, constructive and informative atmosphere for the rest of the visit.

Dinner was provided by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament, President of the Senate John Hogg and House of Representatives' Speaker Harry Jenkins MP.

During our stay, our High Commissioner, the Rt Hon Helen Liddell, also provided a dinner which was attended by influential Australian parliamentarians.

In our meetings in parliament, discussions took place on the following:

- Constitutional issues. The Clerks explained the historical developments going back to the Westminster model modified by adapting Washington principles and eventually leading to what they consider is now a home grown Australian constitution. The Senate is one of the most powerful in the world and its powers include debating money Bills with the ability to reject supply – unlike the House of Lords. The Senate cannot amend, but it can request amendments to Budget Bills. The present composition of the Senate is Government (Labor) 32 seats, Liberals 37 seats, Greens 5 and Independents 2. Historically the Government is not in control of the Senate, and 1949 was the last year Labor had a majority. Presently the Opposition need only a single vote to negative a Bill and two to carry a proposal. The Independent members hold the balance of power, and they make use of it skilfully. For example, Nick Xenophon, the Independent member from New South Wales, has achieved increasing success over the years with his populist campaigns, particularly based on opposition to gambling and the proliferation of establishments offering highly addictive poker machines (“pokies”). His latest campaign was launched at a zoo with a giraffe in the background and his slogan – “I’m sticking my neck out for New South Wales” – grabbing national media attention. The Constitution defines powers to the Commonwealth (Federal Parliament) and the residual powers to the states and territories. It has devolved a number of issues such as land, water, education and transport to the states. However, over the years there has been a drift back to the centre and we heard complaints voiced in the states and territories about this issue.
- Climate Change, Indigenous Communities, Infrastructure Projects, Education and Health are areas where substantial monies are being provided by the Commonwealth. Federal members are of the opinion that accountability for spending in these areas is increasingly important. The PAC Committee informed us that financial and public service audits, which make states more accountable for their spending, would become more prevalent. After all, the Federal politicians said that if they provide all the money why shouldn’t they become more influential?
- On Climate Change the Government commissioned Ross Garnaut to produce a policy options report. Subsequently a Green Paper was produced, and a White Paper has been promised by Christmas. Over the months Ross Garnaut’s views have diverged from the Government’s position (similar to Sir Nicholas Stern and the UK Treasury!). The debate on Climate Change is likely to become more charged in the near future with Ross Garnaut and the public perhaps feeling that the

Government is drawing back as a result of lobbying from industry and trade unions. Some Federal members suggested to us that the electorate was ahead of the politicians on this matter. The drought in recent years; the Great Barrier Reef degradation, and the drying up of the Murray-Darling River have made a profound impact on everyone in Australia. Yet the difficult business of policy formulation is just commencing with business and a number of trade unions making representations for opt-outs. It will be a debate which will mirror what is happening in the UK in relation to the Emission Trading Scheme, the pricing of Carbon and what exactly constitutes Green Taxes. So, like the UK there is still a long, long way to travel on this subject.

- We met members of the Standing Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities. Senator David Johnstone, the committee chair, underlined the complexity and almost intractability of many of the issues facing remote communities. In the Kimberley, Western Australia, area he cited a remote community where two police officers undertook over 600 arrests each year. However, to place the arrested individuals in custody, the arresting officers have to drive for more than five hours to a police station. This particular community had no mortuary and dead persons' remains are regularly left lying exposed for a number of weeks in temperatures of over 40 degrees centigrade whilst family and clan members assemble to pay their respects. Major issues raised with us were alcohol abuse, petrol-sniffing and the non-attendance of large numbers of indigenous children at school. One member stated that in Northern Territory the last prosecution in the state for non-attendance at school was in 2002. With no proper planning processes by State governments alleged to be in place, Federal members indicated that they expected the intensity and scrutiny of these matters from the centre to increase.
- Lord Faulkner met individually with Warren Snowdon, the minister in the Department of Defence with responsibility for veterans' affairs, and his adviser Peter Reece. They discussed the latest developments at the World War One battlefield site at Fromelles in northern France, where an excavation team has established the presence of remains from up to 400 Australian and British troops buried by the German army after an assault in July 1916.

Chronologically, Canberra was in fact the final stop on our visit. However, in Canberra we were given an excellent overview of the Australian political system and insights into its working. The delegation felt that any future CPA visits to Australia should start in Canberra before moving to the other state legislatures.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The so-called "toggle effect" in Australian politics was described to us as the increasing wish of the electorate to contrarian tendencies which involved voting for a different party at Federal and State territory elections. This was demonstrated in the Northern Territory election where Labor plunged from an overwhelmingly dominant majority in the parliament to a majority of just one following the snap August 2008 election. This was repeated in Western Australia, where Labor called a snap election and lost the administration.

During a short visit to Sydney, en route to Canberra, the toggle effect on parties and politicians was demonstrated in the long-running saga of electricity privatisation. The winter of 1981 saw NSW plunged into darkness because the State government failed to ensure that generating capacity kept pace with population growth and energy consumption. The debate on under-investment in infrastructure has been running since that time and a recent State-commissioned report (The Owen Inquiry) predicts a shortfall in base-load power as early as 2013 unless new power stations are built.

At the centre of the political debate is the utilisation of private investment in new generating capacity. Despite party and trade unions' near rejection of the PFI options, the Labor Premier, Morris Iemma, has toggled and gone for broke by dividing his own party and throwing himself at the mercy of the Liberal

opposition by requiring their support to get the measures passed. This appeared initially to be a shrewd move given that electricity privatisation is core Liberal policy.

However, Liberal leader, Garry O'Farrell, rejected Iemma's proposals and this policy toggle has dismayed many of his party and natural business supporters. In taking the political expediency road, perhaps he had in mind the thought that the State government is now faced with the choice between borrowing an extra A\$10 billion and downgrading the State's credit rating, which would increase interest rates, or cutting capital spending on hospitals, roads and railways.

The controversy has done nothing to make more certain the leadership of the Labor or Liberal parties. One certainty though is that if the wrangling continues, New South Wales will be relying on privately-owned and generated electricity supply from neighbouring states if the lights are to remain on in the next few years. With both party leaders' policies rejected by their own parties, this could be described as a tale of two toggles.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



Pictured on the terrace of the Northern Territory Parliament in Darwin (left to right) are Annie Adams, Laurence Robertson MP, Lord Faulkner, Jane Aagaard, John and Joan McFall MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Lady and Lord Snape, Lesley and Keith Hill MP and Ian McNeill, Clerk to the NT Parliament

As in Western Australia, elections over-shadowed our visit. In Darwin, the Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, called a snap election and suffered a considerable reverse in the ruling Labor Party representation, going down from a 19-seat majority in the legislative assembly to a majority of just one. The present composition is Labor 13 seats, Liberals 11 and Independent one. With the Independent member openly favouring the opposition, this will mean that the Speaker has to use her deliberative vote whenever any division arises.

The Chief Minister has publicly stated that an election at this time was necessary in order to secure the future of a A\$12 billion gas plant for Darwin Harbour. He informed the Japanese company, Injex, which is considering both Darwin and Kimberley (WA) as possible sites before making the announcement of the election public. "A Committed Pro-Gas Regime in NT" was his election slogan. It was obvious from the results that this didn't appear to greatly excite the NT electorate.

We were scheduled to meet Chief Minister Henderson but post-election business prior to the State opening of parliament on September 9 prevented this happening. The Speaker, Jane Aagaard, was on hand however both at the beginning and at the end of the visit and she kindly hosted a dinner for us in Parliament House.

We are grateful to Jane for her efforts throughout our visit. The Office of the Clerk was very helpful and while we were disappointed that we could not engage more with politicians, we were extremely grateful for the efforts of the Clerk, Ian McNeill, and his staff members Phyllis Mitchell, and especially Jan Sporn. They accompanied us on our visit to the beautiful Adelaide River War Cemetery, where we laid a wreath, and to the Litchfield National Park Wangi Falls area.

In light of the national and international interest arising from the *Little Children are Sacred* and *Suffer Little Children* reports into the serious, social and sexual abuse, health and educational problems in Aboriginal communities, we requested a meeting and a visit to the communities themselves.



Pictured with Trish Angus, Executive Director in the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport, are Rt Hon Keith Hill MP, Rt Hon John McFall MP, Lord Faulkner and Andrew Rosindell MP

This did not prove possible. However, we are grateful for a meeting with Trish Angus, Executive Director in the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport. Trish is of Aboriginal descent and she was able to provide us with a fascinating insight into the history and to brief us insightfully on the contemporary issues facing the indigenous people in the Northern Territory.

Considerable resentment has resulted from the actions of the Federal government, who wrested ownership of these areas from the NT government. The shock findings of the *Suffer Little Children* report led to the then Prime Minister, John Howard, comparing the scandal to Hurricane Katrina.

In our discussions it was acknowledged that there had been a history of neglect and a failure to respond to - or even know how to approach - the issues affecting the indigenous communities. Public policy is seen to be hopelessly deficient in its response to the problems facing these communities. Following the *Suffer Little Children* report the NT government has provided a generational plan of action entitled *Closing the Gap*.

The Northern Territory Government is working alongside the Federal government which is providing resources to identify areas of action and address the 97 recommendations which encompass child protection as well as broader social and economic factors. These include housing, unemployment, offender rehabilitation, health, alcohol misuse and education. In remote areas, unlike urban areas, no public housing system has existed, so the Federal government has provided A\$678 million over the next four years to urgently address this problem.

However, the magnitude of the task ahead is demonstrated by two facts. Firstly, the cost of basic three-apartment housing in today's market in rural areas is a minimum of A\$330,000 and, secondly, while the Federal contribution is welcome, the NT government identified a backlog of A\$1.2 billion – based on 2004 prices – for present needs only.

Education is another key area where the debate on first language versus English teaching is moving towards a stronger focus on English in order that young indigenous people have the skills to function in society. Without basic English language skills this is impossible for many young people today. Balancing respect for indigenous culture and language and the needs of individuals to function in modern society will be the key to the success of these educational proposals. Involving parents, whether in schools as classroom assistants or using them as role models for other families is seen as important.

It was made clear to us that the place of indigenous people in a modern Australia has been swept under the carpet for too long and if this situation persists it will be naturally harmful and socially and economically damaging to the community and to the country.

The Speaker pointed out during our visit to her superbly resourced constituency office that the Northern Territory indigenous community has the highest rate of renal failure, infant mortality and diabetes in the world. She also revealed that a previous NT government had declared that if people chose to live in rural areas they didn't deserve services.

This was not a sentiment shared by anyone we spoke to during our visit, but it was certainly a reminder that the issue deserves to be more robustly addressed than perhaps it has been to date.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Members of the CPA delegation pictured with Peter McHugh (fifth from left), Clerk to the WA Legislative Assembly, in Fremantle after a visit to a wave energy project

The programme for this part of the visit was subject to considerable overhaul and alteration at short notice following the decision by the Premier to call a snap general election, which Labor lost.

Our thanks are due to the WA CPA staff members Peter McHugh, Malcolm Peacock and Janeen Robertson for ensuring that the aims and objectives of our visit were precisely adhered to. We were well looked after by Nick Griffiths, retiring President of the Legislative Council.

Despite heavy electioneering responsibilities, Francis Logan, Minister for Energy, Science and Innovation, and Tony McRae, Legislature Member for the marginal seat of Riverton (he subsequently lost his seat), took time out to meet and brief us on the governmental and political issues of the day.

A number of the politicians we met referred to the trend towards a drive from political Federation to centralisation, with the Canberra government assuming more powers for what are traditionally State responsibilities, for example, land, water, education, health and energy supplies. This was particularly felt by Western Australia which regards itself as the engine of the Australian economy. Thirty per cent of all Australian exported products emanate from there.

With over 1,000 functioning mines and around one third of the world's supplies of iron ore, 20 per cent of gold and huge deposits of copper, nickel and zinc, the future WA growth prospects seem unstoppable, according to the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

We were informed that a lot of effort and resources has gone into observing the effects of Climate Change in Western Australia which is a large state (the size of India and one and a half times the size of Europe) with different climate zones ranging from tropical areas in the north to arid in the centre and a more temperate climate in the south. Over the past 40 years there have been noticeable changes in climate, particularly in the southern half of the state. These changes are predicted to continue, resulting in lower rainfall and run-off and higher average temperatures.

Climate modelling has projected average annual rainfall declines in the south western parts of WA by as much as 20 per cent by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2070. The 2006 winter was one of the driest on record. Contrary to normal rainfall patterns, where around 130mm was expected during the month of August, only 25mm had fallen at the time of our visit (August 23). Instead of the cold, wet days we expected, we experienced dry and warm weather with temperatures between 22 and 24 degrees Celsius.

We witnessed at first hand the measures presently being undertaken by the government to improve water security during a visit to the Kwinana Desalination Plant just outside Perth. This state of the art facility opened in 2006 and provides 17 per cent of water for the Perth metropolitan area.

There was an interesting interlude for one of our party. This took place when Lord Faulkner attended the A-League association football match between Perth Glory and Newcastle Jets. There he met Western Australia's minister with responsibility for sport, John Kobelke, and his opposition shadow Barry House, and senior officials of Australian football's governing body, who are planning to bid against England for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.



Members of the CPA delegation pictured at the War Memorial in King's Park, Perth, with Malcolm Peacock, Clerk to the Legislative Council, and (right) Rt Hon John McFall MP lays a wreath at the War Memorial in Canberra

An innovative feature of the educational services of the Western Australia parliament was the Constitutional Centre, which is dedicated to demonstrating by written, visual and role-playing means the developing nature of the constitution since WA was established as a British colony. This followed a survey of the electors of Western Australia where 80 per cent of them said they knew "hardly anything" or "nothing at all" about the State constitution - or that they "didn't know of its existence". The delegation was particularly impressed by this initiative and wished it to be brought to the attention of our own parliament.

In Western Australia, the Westminster model of democracy is firmly adhered to where identical practises to Westminster take place in the Upper and Lower Houses. This faithful representation fell down in only one area - the colour of the carpets in the lower House. Instead of green, the colour there is blue.

This was put down to a mix-up in the 1920s when an order was placed with a Scottish contractor for red and green carpets for the upper and lower Houses. However, it was placed around the same time as the Stormont parliament building in Northern Ireland was being fitted out. They had placed an order with the same contractor for a blue coloured carpet. A blue carpet was shipped out from Scotland to Western Australia, and to this day the parliament has stuck with that colour. Conspiracy or mistake? The choice is yours.

To sum up, this was a very enjoyable and informative visit. As well as consolidating the relationship between our respective elected representatives, it achieved a growing understanding of the threats and opportunities facing both countries in a world which is becoming evermore globalised. The warmth, friendship and hospitality extended to our delegation were hugely generous and this augurs well for continued harmonious relationships between our parliaments and peoples.

1) 53RD COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, MALAYSIA

DELEGATES

*Delegation leader and UK Branch
Chairman:*

Mr Hugh Bayley MP

Delegation:

Mr Brian Binley MP

Mr Bill Cash MP
Mr Michael Clapham MP
Rt Hon. Lord Foulkes of Cumnock PC
Baroness Gardner of Parkes
Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP
Lord Paul of Marylebone
Mrs Betty Williams MP
Mr Richard Younger-Ross MP

CPA BIMR Representative: Mr Nigel Evans MP
CWP BIMR Representative: Ms Kate Hoey MP

Clerks: Mr Brendan Keith
Mr Liam Laurence Smyth
Mr Robert Wilson

Parliamentary Relations Team, FCO: Ms Nicole Davison

UK Branch and BIMR Secretary: Mr Andrew Tuggey DL
Delegation secretary: Miss Hatty Cooper
CPA UK Branch Observer: Mrs Susan Holmes

Spouses: Mrs Binley
Mrs Cash
Mrs Clapham
Lady Foulkes of Cumnock
Mrs Younger-Ross
Mrs Keith
Mrs Sally Laurence Smyth

POST ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR) BY DELEGATION

SUMMARY

The 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 31 July – 10 August 2008. The CPA UK Branch sent a delegation of twelve members, led by Hugh Bayley MP. The theme of the conference was ‘*Expanding the Role of Parliament in Global Society: Environment, Development and Security*’. Delegates also took part in events organized by the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur and visited **Malacca**. The CPA Malaysia Branch, supported by the CPA Secretariat, was to be congratulated on a successful and very well organised event.

The CPA UK Branch records its thanks to the Members and Officials of the Parliament of Malaysia for hosting an excellent conference, and to the British High Commission and CPA Secretariat for all their help and support.

PROGRAMME

Saturday 2 August

Mr Nigel Evans MP, BIMR Regional Representative attended the International Executive Committee meeting and Miss Kate Hoey MP attended the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Meeting.

Sunday 3 August

Mr Andrew Tuggey, BIMR Regional Secretary and UK Branch Secretary attended the Small Countries conference.

Monday 4 August

Miss Kate Hoey MP, Mr Andrew Tuggey, Miss Hatty Cooper and Mrs Susan Holmes attended the CWP Conference. Later in the week the Conference's two main discussion sessions addressed the issues of "The Role of Parliamentarians in Elimination of Violence against Women with a particular Reference to domestic Violence" and the "Mechanisms to Ensure Adequate Recognition of Women's Issues in Budgetary Processes".

Tuesday 5 August

The UK delegation attended an early morning breakfast briefing by the British High Commissioner, HE Boyd McLeary CVO. The delegations from the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland, St Helena and Wales were also invited to attend. The main briefing was given by the High Commissioner and he was joined by James Paver from the High Commission and Guy Perring, Project Manager for Transnational Education at the British Council in Kuala Lumpur. Mr Perring also gave a brief presentation. The meeting provided delegates with an excellent introduction to the political climate in the country and to current relations between Malaysia and Britain. A Q&A session after the initial briefing also allowed delegates to examine specific topics of interest to them or their Branch.

Following the briefing the delegations made their way to the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre for the official opening ceremony of the conference by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Hon. Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak. Hon. Dr William F. Shija, CPA Secretary-General also gave a welcome address to the Conference. All delegates then attended their Regional group meetings before attending the first plenary session with addresses from the Commonwealth Secretary General, HE Mr. Kamallesh Sharma.

Wednesday 6 August

Delegates visited Little Malaysia Park to witness a Malay wedding and taste a variety of traditional Malay food. In the afternoon delegates visited the historical city of Malacca, although the UK delegates had to return early to Kuala Lumpur to attend an early evening reception kindly hosted by the British High Commissioner, HE Boyd McLeary CVO at his official residence.

Thursday 7 August

Delegates attended workshops on the following topics:

- A. 'Democracy and Global Peace – An International Order'
- B. 'Sustainable Development in the Context of Rapid Urbanisation and Rural Decline'
- C. 'Credible Elections for a More Representative Parliament, Free and Fair Participation, Greater Diversity and Access to a Free Media'
- D. 'Reforming the Budget Process: Parliamentary Budget Offices and Effective Parliamentary Oversight'

Delegates divided their time between the workshops and contributed effectively to the discussions that developed in each, whilst also campaigning for Lord Paul, the Canadian and BIMR nominee for the election of the Chairman of the CPA International Executive Committee and member of the UK Delegation. Meetings for the CWP and Society of Clerks-at-the Table also produced lively debates.

Friday 8 August

There were further workshop sessions on:

- E. 'Collaboration Among Large and Small States Through International Organisations to Respond to Climate Change'
- F. 'Parliament and Civil Society Engagement for Better Policy Making'
- G. 'The Role of Parliament in Conflict Prevention and Resolution.'
- H. 'Mechanisms to Ensure Adequate Recognition of Women's Issues in Budgetary Processes'

Again, delegates divided their time between the workshops and made useful contributions to the discussions.

Mr Nigel Evans MP was a member of the speaker panel for workshop E and gave a presentation on the topic of climate change. After lunch delegates attended the second plenary session on the 'The Global Food Crisis' at which Mr Hugh Bayley MP, the UK delegation leader contributed. In the background campaigning for the Chairman of the International Executive Committee was greatly increased.

Saturday 10 August

The morning started with the lengthy General Assembly and culminated in the election of the chairperson of the International Executive Committee. Unfortunately Lord Paul of Marylebone was narrowly defeated by the Minister of Unity, Culture, Arts and Heritage and Chairman of the CPA Malaysia Branch, Hon. Datuk Mohd. Shafie Apdal. Both Lord Paul and Mr Hugh Bayley MP congratulated Datuk Shafie on his appointment and encouraged him to visit the UK Branch at his earliest convenience.

Delegates then attended the Final Plenary Session 'The Communications Challenge for Parliament: Meeting the Information Needs of Members and the Public'. In the evening delegates attended a colourful farewell reception supper hosted by the President of the Senate and Joint President of CPA Malaysia Branch, Hon. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh.

m) MALAWI

Delegation:

Ian Davidson MP (Labour) Leader
Vera Baird QC MP (Labour)
Andy Love MP (Labour)

Accompanying Secretary – Andrew Tuggey

Mr Davidson and Mr Love were accompanied

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim. To enable members of the delegation to learn more of the working of the Malawi National Assembly.

Objectives. To:

- Learn how colleagues in the Malawi National Assembly plan to implement the CPA Africa Region strategy
- Understand how the climate change challenges are being met in Malawi
- Visit UK and EU-funded aid projects in Malawi
- Interact with parliamentary colleagues

SUMMARY

The aim and objectives and the objectives of the visit were achieved, due in the main to the wide ranging programme put together by the British High Commission, DFID Malawi and the British Council.

The delegation was received warmly by the Speaker of the Malawi National Assembly (MNA), the Committee Chairmen and some MNA members. It was clear from meetings with Malawian colleagues that party politics in Malawi centred round individuals and not policies and the ability of the MNA to hold the Executive to account was subject to several constraints from the Executive.

Although the budget had been passed the previous week, comparatively little legislation had passed through the MNA, the morale of the clerks had been severely dampened by the forced departure of the MNA Clerk in the "Section 65" melange and it appeared that the MNA would not meet much before the May 2009 general election when a 60+% turnover of MPs was expected, no local government elections had been held since 2005; against this background the Speaker requested Westminster's assistance for parliamentary strengthening with capacity-building workshops for the new MPs and assistance to strengthen the Committee system after the election.

At the time of the visit, electoral registration was taking place throughout Malawi and the delegates approved of the straightforward processing system which made the best use of IT, powered where required by solar energy. Malawi, "the warm heart of Africa" is the 14th poorest country in the world where 14% of the 13M population suffers from HIV/AIDS, yet the delegation was welcomed with affection and friendship.

The delegates were impressed by the success and effectiveness of the large DFID Malawi £80M programme of which some 30% was direct budget support. Visits to; the British Council to see the HIV/AIDS-awareness Theatre for a Life project and to discuss the knowledge economy, leadership programmes and school-twinning; a hugely overcrowded school; a micro-credit scheme; an heartening rural agricultural organic manure DFID project funded in partnership with Irish Aid; a successful traditional authority justice forum; health projects and a DFID-supported PLAN project, woven with a series of discussions with Malawian MPs, Ministers and officials, the media, civil society, Chevening scholars and the first ever visit by any MPs to the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU) highlighted to the delegates the challenges their Malawi colleagues faced in the democratic and economic development of their country.

Delegates also visited the annual conference of the SADC Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) in the margins of which the outgoing Chairperson and the incoming Deputy Chairperson sought Westminster's assistance to build up the capacity of SACOPAC members and the Secretariat.

During end of visit discussions with the High Commission and DFID Malawi the CPA UK delegates emphasized the importance of involving parliamentarians in any subsequent parliamentary strengthening programmes in Malawi and SADCOPAC.

OUTCOMES

Following requests from Hon. Speaker Chimango, CPA UK would explore working in partnership with the CPA International Secretariat, CPA Scotland and DFID to produce:

- A series of post-election seminar and parliamentary strengthening workshops to build the capacity of the new intake of MPs (60+%) expected after the May 2009 general election, which would involve Westminster parliamentarians
- A parliamentary strengthening programme to build the capacity of:
 - The MNA committee system, which might involve Westminster parliamentarians and clerks
 - The MNA administration

Following a request from the outgoing Chairperson and the incoming Deputy Chairperson of, CPA UK would discuss with DFID and the NAO opportunities to build the capacity of the SADCOPAC infrastructure (based in Tanzania), elements of which could involve Westminster parliamentarians

The delegates would seek TUC, STUC and UNISON assistance to strengthen the capacity of the MCTU.

PROGRAMME

Sunday 31 August

Arrival Lilongwe and meeting with local journalists

Monday 1 September

In-country brief from BHC Lilongwe, HE Richard Wildash and DFID Lilongwe (Nick Dyer with Stuart Forster), meetings with; Speaker L J Chimango MP, civil society representatives, Committee Chairmen, Chevening alumni. Visit to an election registration centre



*Figure 1. With Hon Speaker L J Chimango MP.
Chairmen.*



.Figure 2. With Committee



Figure 3. Election Registration.



Figure 4. Lewis from the BHC registering.

Tuesday 2 September

Meetings with Minister of Lands & Natural Resources, Minister John B K Chirwa MP, the Solicitor-General and the Attorney-General. Visit to the British Council (Mark Jessel) – Theatre for a Life presentation, discussions on the knowledge economy and leadership, and school twinning. Dinner with the British High Commissioner.

Wednesday 3 September

M'buka Primary School (Area School No 36) visit, then visits to; CUMO micro-credit scheme offices and villagers, Self-Help Africa Lipangwe Organic Manure Demonstration Farm with Brian O'Brien and Dr Anne Conroy (Irish Embassy). Dinner with Deputy Minister of Agriculture to discuss climate change and associated agricultural issues.



Figures 5 & 6. At M'buka Primary School.



Figure 7. A Rangers' Promotion at M'buka Primary. scheme.



Figure 8 At a village micro-credit scheme.



Figures 9 & 10. At a village micro-credit scheme.



Figures 11 & 12. At Lipangwe Organic Demonstration Farm (Self-Help Africa).

Thursday 4 September

Visit to a Traditional Authority Khongoni, SADCOPAC conference, the MCTU and Benny’s Hope Women and Children’s Foundation of Canada School. Reception at British High Commission.



Figure 13. At Khongoni Traditional Authority.

Figure 14. At the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions.

Friday 5 September

With Dr Jason Lane and Sarah Mtnoya (DFID), visits to; Lighthouse Trust at Kamuzu Central Hospital (Lilongwe); Mchenzi Community Based Organisation (DFID and PLAN Malawi); Salima District Hospital (DFID Sector-Wide Approach. Wash-up with Deputy High Commissioner and Head of DFID Malawi.



Figures 15 & 16. At Mchenzi Village (PLAN Malawi).

Saturday 6 September

Visit ends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CPA UK Branch acknowledges with thanks the support and contributions of the Malawi National Assembly, the staff of the British High Commission, DFID Malawi and the British Council, the Embassy of the Republic of Ireland and the several NGOs, organisations and charities involved in the visit programme. Special thanks are given to HE Richard Wildash and the Head of DFID Malawi, Mr Nick Dyer for their great personal contributions to a very successful visit.

n) SOUTH AFRICA

DELEGATION

Leader: Lord Hoyle of Warrington (Labour)

Members: Mr Peter Bottomley MP (Conservative)
Mr Roger Godsiff MP (Labour)
Mr David Hamilton MP (Labour)
Lord Harrison of Chester (Labour)
Mr Daniel Kawczynski MP (Conservative)
Sir Nicholas Winterton DL MP (Conservative)
Mr Derek Wyatt MP (Labour)

Mr Roger Godsiff MP was accompanied by Mrs Julia Godsiff and Mr David Hamilton MP was accompanied by Mrs Jean Hamilton.

The delegation was accompanied by Miss Elspeth Macdonald from the CPA UK Branch.

SUMMARY

The CPA delegation visited South Africa at a time of huge shifts in the country's political landscape: the month prior to the visit saw the resignation of former president Thabo Mbeki, the appointment of current president Kgalema Motlanthe, and the prospect of a new party emerging from dissatisfied ANC members.

In this context of change and uncertainty, the delegation is most grateful to our hosts in Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal and Johannesburg for their warm welcome and accommodating approach during our visit. We are pleased at having achieved all the objectives of the visit, and note that objectives 1 – 4 were particularly well-fulfilled.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim. To learn more of the challenges and opportunities for South Africa in a rapidly changing world.

Objectives: To exchange views with colleagues in the CPA South Africa Branch, and to be briefed on and learn about:

- Party politics and relationships between the National and Provincial legislatures
- South Africa's role in Africa and the delivery of the MDGs
- Poverty reduction challenges and urban regeneration, visiting and meeting local community leaders
- Education and health issues
- Crime and drug issues

PROGRAMME

Sunday 5 October

Cape Town

Arrive Cape Town; met by CPA South Africa Branch staff.
Briefing by HE Paul Boateng, British High Commissioner to South Africa.

Monday 6 October

Cape Town

Meeting with Ms Peggy Maud Hollander, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces and members of the CPA South Africa Branch
Courtesy call on Ms Gwendoline Lindiwe Mahlangu-Nkabinde MP, Speaker of the National Assembly
Visit to Hannan Crusaid Treatment Centre, Gugulethu Community Health Centre, Gugulethu. Briefing by Professor Linda-Gail Bekker
Welcome reception and dinner hosted by Ms Nosipho Dorothy Ntwanambi MP, Chief Whip, ANC.

Tuesday 7 October

Cape Town / Durban

Meeting with Ms Fatime Hajaig, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Committee members.
Tour of Parliament of South Africa
Visit to N2 Gateway Housing Project in Langa
Depart Cape Town, arrive Durban; met by CPA KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Branch staff members
Welcome reception and dinner hosted by Mr S N Mtetwa MPL, Chairperson of Committees, KZN Provincial Legislature.

Wednesday 8 October

Durban / Pietermaritzburg

Depart Durban, arrive Pietermaritzburg
Meeting with Members of the Executive Council, KZN Provincial Government to discuss housing
Meeting with Members of the CPA KZN Branch
Visit to Ekukhanyeni School (school for children with special needs), Edendale
Depart Pietermaritzburg, arrive Durban
Visit Moses Mabhida Stadium, World Cup 2010 venue
Gala dinner with representatives of the CPA KZN Branch.

Thursday 9 October

Durban / Johannesburg

Visit Lily of the Valley Children's Village (residential complex for children with HIV/AIDS) / Community Centre / Community Clinic, Eston

Depart Durban, arrive Johannesburg; met by Hon. Mbongeni Radebe MPL, Chairperson, CPA Gauteng Branch and CPA Gauteng staff members
Welcome dinner hosted by Mr Mzameni Richard Mdakane MPL, Speaker, Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

Friday 10 October

Johannesburg / Midrand

Meeting with Members of the Executive Council, Gauteng Provincial Government to discuss education, health and housing
Depart Johannesburg, arrive Midrand
Visit to Pan-African Parliament (PAP)
Meeting with Mr Murumba Werunga, Clerk of the Parliament and other PAP staff members
Tour of the PAP.

Saturday 11 October

Johannesburg

Tour of Soweto including Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, the Hector Peterson Memorial and Museum, Vilakasi Street (where Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela's family homes are situated), Belle Primary School, the Elias Matsoaledi informal settlement and Orlando East
Depart Johannesburg for UK.

OUTCOMES

Objective 1 – to be briefed on and learn about party politics in South Africa and relationships between the national and provincial legislatures

The ANC continues to be the main force in South Africa politics and this was reflected in our programme of meetings in all three provinces. However, Members of opposition parties were also present almost all these meetings and during the week we were able to meet representatives from the Democratic Alliance and the Inkhata Freedom Party, amongst others. This ensured a certain balance of ideas and perspectives during discussions and gave the delegation a sense of the varied debates taking place both within and between the country's political parties.

The presence of opposition members during meetings may have contributed to a reluctance on the part of ANC Members to discuss with us the disputes taking place within the party at the time. Nonetheless, through more informal discussions with Members outside the official meeting programme, it became clear that change in the ANC was likely to come, and come soon. Indeed, following the delegation's return to the UK it was announced on 1 November that a new party, led by former ANC Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota, will be inaugurated in December.

The delegation was briefed on the national – provincial structure within South Africa during their time at the National Parliament in Cape Town and again during visits to the KZN and Gauteng Provincial Legislatures. We also met Members of the Provincial Legislatures and discussed with them the concept of concurrent powers, notably in the areas of health, social development and education. In both Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg, the delegation visited the Provincial Government offices and held discussions with MECs on similar topics.

Objective 2 - To be briefed on and learn about South Africa's role in Africa and the delivery of the MDGs

During meetings in Cape Town, KZN and Gauteng, the delegation engaged in frank discussions relating to South Africa's key role in Africa, and in particular Zimbabwe. Various members of the delegation

expressed concern that, following the resignation of Thabo Mbeki, attempts to broker a power-sharing agreement in Zimbabwe might become stalled. We also heard about the challenges facing the country as a result of migration from surrounding countries (in particular Zimbabwe) to its major cities, most prominently the economic hub of Johannesburg.

Towards the end of the programme, the delegation visited the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the legislative body of the African Union (AU). The visit took place during a non-sitting week; we were therefore received by the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Murumba Werunga. Mr Werunga fielded our more 'political' questions most admirably and briefed us generally on the powers and make-up of the PAP. It was interesting to hear about the links the PAP has developed with Europe: both DfID and the European Union provide the PAP with considerable funding (via their funding of the AU which then designates money to the PAP), and firm links were said to exist between the PAP and the European Parliament, allowing inter-institutional support and training.

The delegation expressed its support of the work carried out by the PAP since its establishment in 2000 and its hope that the institution would continue to be strengthened over time.

Objective 3 - To be briefed on and learn about poverty reduction challenges and urban regeneration, visiting and meeting local community leaders

Despite South Africa's role as the economic powerhouse of the continent, the challenges the country faces in terms of poverty reduction are undeniable. Jobless economic growth in recent years; inadequate education and health facilities; poor housing; immigration from surrounding countries; and the legacy of apartheid are just some of the contributing and exacerbating factors.

In all three provinces, the delegation was briefed on the economic problems faced in the area and visited projects attempting to improve the situation. In Cape Town, we were shown around the N2 Gateway Housing Project in the township of Langa, a project which is constructing housing units and associated community facilities on former informal settlements. The scale of the task in hand was sobering: thousands of people in the area live as "backyard dwellers" in temporary structures with no sanitation, running water or electricity. Needless to say, in the midst of this the vision of areas transformed from dilapidated slum areas into clean, serviced units was extremely heartening. It was also interesting to hear from our guides at the Western Cape Provincial Government how sustainability had been integrated into the project: one example they gave was that unemployed residents in the area are trained as builders on a site; once the project ends, they have the skills to work on the next project in line or to seek employment with another building company.

In Cape Town the delegation also visited the Hannan Crusaid Treatment Centre in the township of Gugulethu. In KZN we visited the Ekukhanyeni School, a school for children with special needs and Lily of the Valley Children's Village a residential complex for children with HIV/AIDS. During our time at the Village we also paid a visit to their Community Centre and Clinic. In Gauteng we were shown around the historic township of Soweto, visiting Belle Primary School and the Elias Matsoaledi informal settlement, amongst other sites. Our visits to all these projects and the briefings we received at them are further discussed below.

Objective 4 – To be briefed on and learn about education and health issues

Education

During the visit, the delegation heard about the structure of education services in South Africa from both the national and the provincial perspectives. In Gauteng, the delegation received a particularly informative briefing from the Provincial Government's Department of Education. We heard about how

the Department is tackling the legacy of apartheid in South Africa's education system through new curricula and teaching methods (including the eradication of teacher-pupil violence). We also learned about other problems such as absenteeism, the difficulty of non-fee paying pupils attending fee-paying schools; and high drop-out rates in tertiary education.

In KwaZulu-Natal the delegation visited the Ekukhanyeni School in Edendale, a centre for children with special needs. We were shown around the school's facilities, including the craft workshop and the computer room. It was impressive to see the work that the school is doing with some of the most vulnerable members of its community: all the children came from very deprived backgrounds; many of them, alongside having special needs requirements, were also HIV positive.

Health

The delegation discussed issues surrounding healthcare in both Cape Town and Guateng. In Cape Town, we visited the Hannan Crusaid Treatment Centre in the township of Gugulethu. This remarkable project serves the needs of the local population with HIV/AIDS: it provides anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) and follow-up support; HIV screening; counselling; and targeted paediatric / adolescent / maternal healthcare programmes, amongst other services.

During our visit we received a fascinating briefing from Dr Linda-Gail Bekker, a professor at the University of Cape Town and director of the Centre. She explained the difficulties of ARVs from a patient's point of view, including the need to adhere religiously to a drug schedule and the painful side-effects often experienced. Nonetheless, Dr Bekker was extremely positive about the advances being made in her community around both treatment and prevention. Interestingly, due to the success of the Centre's programmes, Dr Bekker said she felt HIV/AIDS was fast becoming a manageable "chronic disease" in South Africa, rather than the inevitably fatal epidemic so often described in the media. The words sung to us by the Centre's resident choir at the start of our meeting - "Wherever you are, be bright in the corner!" – well describes the positive attitude we found in Dr Bekker and her team despite the enormity of the task before them.

In KZN, we visited the Lily of the Valley Children's Village, a residential complex for children with HIV/AIDS that was set up and is funded by an American church. The facilities provided at the Village – and the attached Community Centre and Clinic – were of exceptional quality and clearly appreciated and enjoyed by all residents. It was sobering, however, to think of the relatively small number of children that the centre is able to help and of those without access to this type of centre who need it.

Whilst in Gauteng, the delegation was briefed on the health issues in the province by Members of the Provincial Legislature and visited the famous Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto. The hospital is one of the largest in the world: it has 2885 beds; treats 1000 outpatients per day; and sees between 20-26,000 babies born in its maternity ward each year.

At the hospital we met with Dr Pungie Lingham and Ms Johanna More, acting CEO of the hospital and discussed issues facing both their hospital specifically and South African healthcare services more generally. One of the key points made was that the country urgently needs to move from a curative system to a preventative system. Other problems discussed were the inability to buy / upgrade equipment; the dependence on hospitals rather than district health services for the treatment of one's ailments, no matter how minor; the resulting overstretch of hospital resources; and poor staff retention rates, amongst other things.

Objective 5 – to be briefed on and learn about crime and drug issues

No specific briefings or visits were arranged to examine crime or drug issues. However, crime is a cross-cutting issue affecting almost all areas of policy in South Africa, be it health, tourism or education. As such, crime was referred to in most of our meetings during the visit and violent crime in particular was

raised as a particular concern. Crime was also discussed during the delegation's visits to projects. For example, we learned during our briefing at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital that patients admitted to A&E with gunshot wounds had reduced significantly in recent months, from 7-9 daily to 4-5 weekly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CPA UK Branch is extremely grateful to Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, for inviting the CPA UK Branch to visit South Africa. We also thank Ms Gwen Mahlangu-Nkanibde, Speaker of the National Assembly, for hosting us at the Parliament in Cape Town; and to Mr T W Mchunu, Speaker of the KwaZulu Natal Legislature, and Mr Mzameni Richard Mdakane MPL, Speaker of Gauteng Provincial Legislature for hosting our visits to Durban and Johannesburg respectively.

We are extremely grateful too to the many National and Provincial Members who met with us and offered their warm hospitality throughout our visit. Additionally, without the energy and organisation of the CPA staff in all three legislatures our visit would not have been possible; we thank them for all their help and flexibility.

Finally, the delegation wishes to thank HE Paul Boateng, British High Commissioner to South Africa, for the thorough briefing and kind hospitality he provided us at the very start of our visit.

o) KENYA

REPORT

Delegation: Mr Nigel Evans MP (Conservative – Leader)
Mrs Ann Cryer MP (Labour)
Lord Dholakia OBE DL (Liberal Democrat)
Mr Andrew MacKinlay MP (Labour)
Mr Mark Oaten MP (Liberal Democrat)
Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench)

Accompanying Secretary: Mr Andrew Tuggey DL

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim. To learn more of the challenges faced by colleagues in the Parliament of Kenya

Objectives. To:

- Understand relationships between the Kenyan Executive and Parliament
- Contribute to the strengthening of practices and procedures in the Kenyan Parliament if requested
- Visit parliamentary colleagues in their constituencies
- Understand the interaction between civil society and parliament in Kenya
- Learn more about HIV/AIDS challenges in Kenya
- Visit and assess the success of some DFID projects in Kenya

SUMMARY – *Reserved, to complete after Report-Back:*

OUTCOMES – *Reserved, to complete after Report-Back:*

To learn more of the challenges faced by colleagues in the Parliament of Kenya.

To understand relationships between the Kenyan Executive and Parliament.

To contribute to the strengthening of practices and procedures in the Kenyan Parliament if requested.

To visit parliamentary colleagues in their constituencies.

To understand the interaction between civil society and parliament in Kenya.

To learn more about HIV/AIDS challenges in Kenya.

To visit and assess the success of some DFID projects in Kenya.

PROGRAMME

Sunday 23 November – Peace-Net Kenya and Internal Displaced People’s (IDP) Camp (Naivasha – Jikaze). After a short briefing from Mr Mutuku Nguli in the hotel the delegation travelled along the Rift Valley to Naivasha where District Commissioner Mohammed not only briefed about the function and role of the DC, but also of the IDP situation around Naivasha prior to the delegation departing for the IDP Camp at Jikaze. The delegates were taken aback by the situation of the 850 IDP at Jikaze who live in tents and in some newly built huts with no running water or electricity, but were immensely moved by the determination of the people, articulated by their spokeswoman to stay where they were, where they were happy and to make a new life for themselves. Each family had received an initial grant of KES³10K followed by a grant of KES20K with which to buy land. The DC promised the community piped potable, sanitation and electricity whilst the delegation was there and the delegates will look forward to hearing progress on those projects.



Monday 24 November – In-Country Brief at BHC, Mr Speaker, Vice-President & Leader of Government Business, Prime Minister, Deputy Speaker.

- The delegation was given a wide-ranging in-country brief by the new BHC HE Rob Macaire and the 2nd Sec Political Richard Cox which covered in detail views on the stability of the Coalition, the working relationship between President Kibaka and Prime Minister Odinga, the outcomes of the Kriegler and Waki Reports, constitutional and parliamentary reforms, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), the future of the electoral commission, the role of the press and Somalia.
- After a tour of Parliament, the delegation’s first meeting was with Hon. Speaker Kenneth Marende MP, accompanied by the Clerk of the House, Mr Patrick Gichohi. The Speaker considered that the delegation had arrived in Kenya at a critical time and he ran through the challenges that faced the Kenyan Parliament and made an earnest plea for more cooperation with

³ KES118.00 ≈ £1.00.

Westminster as the new Standing Orders were to be introduced in March 2009; Kenyan parliamentarians had a duty to ensure peace was restored in Kenya. The delegation agreed to take back Mr Speaker's request for further action through CPA UK.

- The next meeting was with the Vice President and Leader of Government Business, Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka EGH MP (also leader of the party, ODM-K). The delegation learnt that the Coalition had saved Kenya and that following the Serena Talks with Kofi Annan the strengthening of the critical role of parliament in the new Kenya, constitutional reform and the TJRC had to be taken forward. The Vice-President spoke of the immense poverty that still existed in Kenya, of Vision 2030 and the geo-strategic position of Kenya.
- The first meeting of the afternoon was with the Prime Minister, Hon. Raila Odinga EGH MP who spoke warmly of the 6 week attachment at Westminster done by his father before speaking to the delegation about the post-election violence, the heavy-handed action by the police, the outstanding issues of land-ownership, the settling of old scores that had taken place, the sadness of the 1500 people who were killed and how all had agreed to sit down and negotiate to stop Kenya imploding. The PM also touched on the role of the British Prime Minister who first made the calls Mr Kibaka and Odinga to set in train the negotiations. The PM also covered the amalgamation of all the police forces into a single and accountable police service and how the UK might be called upon to assist, new draft land policy and constitutional reform which would look at issues such as President or PM, devolution of powers and parliamentary reform including whether or not Kenya should adopt a Presidential or Parliamentary system. (He considered the parliamentary system, which could include a second Chamber, might be adopted).
- All three meetings had been followed by press briefings in which the press asked the same questions of the Kenyan politicians regarding the possibility of the taxation of the KES600K allowances Kenyan MPs received in addition to their taxed salary of KES200K. Following the delegation's meeting with the PM, the PM spoke first to the press about the Kriegler and Waki Commissions, setting up of the TJRC, land reform, the constitutional review, the role of Parliament, new standing orders, the role of the PM and devolution of power from Parliament; the press then immediately asked him the same questions about the taxing of MPs allowances.



Tuesday 25 November – Meetings with Foreign Minister, Mayor of Nairobi, Press and Media Workshop, Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee; DFID Briefing.

- Hon. Moses M Wetangula MP is no stranger to the CPA having just completed his 3 year term of office as one of the CPA Africa Region's regional representatives where he served alongside Nigel Evans MP, leader of the UK delegation, on the CPA's International Executive Committee. The meeting in the Foreign Ministry was extremely comprehensive and wide-ranging.
 - The UK delegation thanked the Foreign Minister for Kenya's cooperation with the UK following the HMS CUMBERLAND incident when the frigate arrested pirates off the coast Somalia and brought them to Kenya for trial.
 - The meeting continued with the Foreign Minister outlining the regrettable post-election violence in which for the first time Kenya had its own refugees outside its borders and in excess of 300,000 internally displaced persons.
 - The post-election agenda covered the implementing the Kriegler Commission's recommendations, taking action on the grossly incompetent Election Commission before the referendum on the new constitution and implementing the Waki Commission.
 - The Foreign Minister and Nigel Evans MP also spoke about the recent unfortunate circumstances in the CPA which had at one time threatened to split the Association along racial lines.
 - The very real challenges of piracy around the seas off the Horn of Africa and the situation in Somalia were covered in detail by the Foreign Minister who spoke regularly on the matter with the UK's Foreign Secretary; discussions then moved to the huge benefits to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (and soon to be Burundi and Rwanda) within the East Africa Community which aimed for political unity amongst the member countries by 2013.
- A brief call on His Worship the Mayor of Nairobi, Cllr Geoffrey Majiwa and his fellow councillors at City Hall afforded the delegation the opportunity to exchange views about the challenges in local government and the funding of essential services to communities.
- The delegation moved on to a joint workshop in Parliament with members of the Departmental Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works; the purpose of which was to enable MPs to exchange views on relations with the media. Given the number of press briefings the UK delegation had been present at the previous day and the running story of taxation of Kenyan MPs' allowances, it was a most useful workshop and members of the media joined the MPs in the second half and much was gained by both sets of MPs and the Kenyan media.
- In the afternoon a fruitful meeting was held with the Defence and Foreign Relations Committee which commenced with an exchange of views about the working and effectiveness of the Committee system and Kenyan plans to enhance the system following changes to parliamentary standing orders in March 2009. Further discussions covered the situation in Somalia, Southern Sudan, international terrorism and security, corruption, the reform of the Kenyan electoral process and the Committee's concern that the international community appeared not to concern itself over African issues. For its part the UK delegation undertook to raise the profile of regional issues and challenges in both Houses of Parliament and that day the Chairman of the Committee received e-details from Hansard of recent proceedings from the House of Commons on Somalia.
- The day concluded with an in-depth briefing from the acting Head of DFID Kenya, Mr Mike Harrison on the £50M DFID programme in Kenya. Successes included a 50% decrease in infant mortality, condom distribution and the halving of HIV prevalence in Kenya. DFID also funded WfD and State University of New York in their work on building the capacity of the Kenyan Parliament, which would feature later in the week with a briefing from SUNY.

Wednesday 26 November – DFID Projects at Kisumu, Meeting with Tax-Payers' Association.

- Flying early to Kisumu on Lake Victoria the delegation visited two DFID-funded projects, both of which were facilitated through AMREF (Africa Medical & Research Foundation).
- After a briefing from the AMREF team at Maanisha – Drs Festus Ilako, Meshack Ndirangu and David Ojaka the delegation travelled first to the Disciples of Mercy project where they learnt first hand about:

- Orphan care and support, including orphans with special needs
- Income generating initiatives by the project beneficiaries
- The HIV/AIDS programme, including counselling, HIV testing and the provision of ARV
- The unique and ground-breaking programme in prisons and for rehabilitated prisoners
- The Disciples of Mercy is run by Natalie Ooipo and a dedicated team of volunteers who greatly impressed the delegation. The project had been visited by President Elect Barack Obama when visiting his family roots nearby and who had been HIV tested by the Disciples of Mercy, following which a poster had been produced, “I know my status – do you?”



- The Orungo Widows’ and Orphans’ Support Group was a wonderful example of the empowerment of people and what can be achieved by the local community. Run by Florence, Orungo was a marvellous organisation which;
 - Looked after widows and children and gave them hope and purpose to their lives
 - Generated income from home-developed activities such as making soap
 - Acted as a catalyst for similar project within the area





- The last activity of the day was to be briefed by the local chapter of the National Taxpayers' Association – a CSO supported by DFID, on their personal views on the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), which the delegates would learn more of in Nairobi the next day.

Thursday 27 November – Meeting with; Health Committee, Young Parliamentarians; Constituency Visit – briefing on Constituency Development Fund, Visits to Secondary School Project and Community Building Project; Meeting with ODM, Meeting with CSO.

Friday 28 November – Wash-up at BHC, Press Briefing, Visit British Council, Meeting with SUNY, Meeting with PNU.

Saturday 29 November – Visits to Nairobi (City) Game Reserve, CDF Hospital Project, Nairobi Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The delegation is most grateful to its hosts – CPA Kenya, and to BHC Nairobi, DFIDK and the British Council for organising such a wide-ranging and excellent programme; and one which met the aim and objectives of the visit in full. Members were delighted to engage with their Kenyan parliamentary colleagues in full and frank discussions and look forward to carrying on the warm relations forged, but above all the delegation acknowledges the warmth of the welcome members received from the people in Jikaze IDP Camp near Naivasha, the selfless, cheerful and dedicated teams and people at the Disciples of Mercy and the Urongo Widows' and Orphans' Community near Kisumu.

p) NAMIBIA, ST HELENA AND ASCENSION ISLAND

DELEGATION

Leader Mr Fraser Kemp M.P. (Labour)
Members Mr Brian Jenkins M.P. (Labour)
 Lord Shutt of Greetland (Liberal Democrat)

Mr Kemp writes:

SUMMARY

The Branch sent a delegation to Namibia, St. Helena and Ascension at the invitation of the respective branches. We should wish to place on record our grateful thanks to those who assisted with the excellent organization and for the hospitality and warm welcome we received. We feel we achieved in general the objectives which were set.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Consultations were held with the host Branches, FCO and DfID and the CPA UK Branch delegation set the following aims and objectives.

NAMIBIA

AIM

To learn more about democracy and governance in Namibia

OBJECTIVES To

- Discuss Namibia's role in the Southern African Development Community
- Learn more about domestic issues – education, health, policing and transport
- Learn about trade and development issues
- Learn more about defence issues
- Be briefed on Namibia-UK issues

ST. HELENA

AIM

To learn more about governance in St. Helena

OBJECTIVES To

- Discuss parliamentary practice and procedures with colleagues from CPA St. Helena Branch
- Learn more about the proposal for air access to the island
- Learn more about domestic issues – education, health and policing
- Learn about trade and development issues
- Learn about environmental challenges and ecotourism
- Be briefed on St. Helena-U.K. issues

ASCENSION ISLAND

AIM

To learn more about the governance of Ascension

OBJECTIVES To

- Discuss the proposed constitutional arrangements and U.K./Ascension issues
- Learn more about domestic issues
- Learn more about economic challenges, with particular reference to the "Users Arrangements
- Learn more about environmental challenges

PROGRAMME

1 February – Arrival in Namibia, met with Deputy High Commissioner and High Commissioner. Discussion on impact of global downturn, international aid, current political situation and environmental issues.

6 February – Arrival at St. Helena. Meetings with Acting Governor, CPA St. Helena Branch President and Secretary, Government Economist, all Members of Legislative Council. Visit to wind turbine project, Longwood House, Millennium Forest, viewed proposed airport site.

7 February – Meeting with Chair Education Committee, Chair Public Health & Social Services Committee, Chief Development Officer, Chief Agricultural Officer, Environmental Coordinator, Representatives of the Citizenship Commission, Builders & Allied Industries, St. Helena Development Agency and St. Helena Chamber of Commerce. The Delegation also held a public consultation for local

residents. On the evening the CPA Branch hosted a buffet dinner with Members of the Legislative Council, community and business representatives.

8 February – Visit and tour of the Community Care Complex, St. Helena Museum and tour of Jamestown. A final de-briefing discussion was held between the delegation and the CPA St. Helena Branch Members.

11 February – Arrival at Ascension island, meetings with the Administrator, RAF Base Commander, USAF Base Commander, and Island Councillors.

12 February – Visit and tour of V.T. Communications, B.B.C. World Service Relay Station, Museum visit. The Delegation also attended a reception for Island Councilors, representatives of business and community groups.

13 February – Met conservation team, visited Green Mountain National Park and areas of environmental interest. Departure to U.K.

NAMIBIA

OBJECTIVES Whilst the delegation was only in Namibia for a brief period, it used the time effectively and was briefed by the Deputy & High Commissioner on a range of issues concerning U.K./Namibian trade relations, international development and domestic issues, education, health and policing.

ST. HELENA

OBJECTIVES

Parliamentary practice and procedures - we discussed the new draft constitution which includes St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha with Members of the Legislative Council and the Citizenship Commission. Detailed discussions were held on human rights, partnership, new Register of Interests and Code of Conduct.

AIR ACCESS – the 4,000 Saints are one of the most isolated communities in the world. The proposed airport and HMG's (December 08) announcement that the project was to be "paused" was the dominant issue in all our discussions as access impacted on all aspects of island life from economic development to health provision. Considerable investment had been made by the business community on the basis of the original announcement and there was a real sense of serious concern over the uncertainty and the long-term future of the island. The delegation pledged to raise these concerns upon their return.

DOMESTIC ISSUES

The geographic isolation impacted on domestic provision, Saints who needed health support that couldn't be provided on the island faced a 5-day sea journey to Cape Town or an even longer journey to the U.K. as well as the inevitable consequences of any repair to medical equipment. Young people wishing to pursue further education/degree studies usually undertake this in the U.K., however public provision places are severely limited. We also met the Chief of Police, who in common with many people, undertakes a number of additional roles – in his case Fire, Sea Rescue and Motor Vehicle Testing.

TRADE & DEVELOPMENT

We met with the Government Economist. St. Helena's employment is 61% (public), 39% (private) sector with a median weekly wage of £89.10p. Imports are £7.7 million with exports of £0.130. The main industries are fishing, construction, agriculture and tourism. Inflation is much higher than other economies, running at around 11% - this being as a result of its close economic ties to South Africa and sea transportation costs. The economic prospects for St. Helena are tied closely to investment in the

development of sustainable new growth industries that will provide higher living standards and will reverse the long-term downward population trend. The limited access to the island remains a critical barrier to the achievement of this objective. It is noteworthy that following the announcement in 2005 of the air access project, population decline stabilized and inward investment increased. However, this positive trend is unlikely to be sustained if the pause in the air access project is prolonged.

ENVIRONMENT

Concerns were expressed over the lack of resources to protect and enhance the environment, for example no effective form of fisheries protection exists. Limited work was underway to protect the island's unique biodiversity. The island has a rich built heritage and some F.C.O. finance was made available and a DIFID Project was underway to deal with the dangerous rock falls Jamestown had experienced. The Delegation visited the Millennium Forest Project and was impressed by the enthusiasm of those involved.

ST HELENA/U.K. ISSUES

There is no doubt the island is facing challenging times, exasperated by the airport pause. In the 1990's the population exceeded 5,500 and is currently down to 4,000 and the greatest loss of population has been of those of working age with skills and is increasing the U.K. financial commitment in order to sustain basic services. Aid is currently around £16 million per year, including £3 million to maintain operations on the RMS St. Helena.

The uncertainty around the "pause" on the airport is the absolutely dominant issue with the belief that the airport could greatly contribute to a positive future for the island and its people.

We would like to place on record our thanks for the friendship and hospitality shown to the delegation.

ASCENSION ISLAND

CONSTITUTIONAL

Meetings were held with the Island Council. The islanders do not have a permanent right of abode for those living there. Essentially the vast majority of islanders are workers for the main users, V.T., B.B.C., Military U.S. & U.K. Around 80% of the 1,000 population are Saints although some individuals have been on the island for many years. So it was within this context we conducted our discussions over the proposed draft constitution.

DOMESTIC

There is limited tourism, the island has a unique environment and there was a desire to see properly controlled development. The Delegation visited the small hospital and held discussions with staff and discussed law and order issues with the Police Sergeant.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Concern was expressed over sea access and in particular the need for crane and structural improvement to the pier. The "Users" structure makes the economy essentially totally dependant on their contribution. The airport has potential under existing agreements, the capacity for charter flights and there was a feeling this should be further investigated.

ENVIRONMENT

With limited resources and using volunteers much work is undertaken in protecting and supporting the environment, and the F.C.O. assisted in the creation of a National Park.

We would like to thank all those – the Administrator, Island Councillors and community groups – for their assistance and hospitality.

q) ZAMBIA

DELEGATION: Rt Hon. Andrew Mackay MP (Conservative – Leader)
Ms Charlotte Atkins MP (Labour)
Ms Julie Kirkbride MP (Conservative)
Ms Kerry McCarthy MP (Labour)

Accompanying Secretary: Mr Andrew Tuggey DL

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim. To enable Westminster parliamentarians to understand better the challenges faced by their Zambian colleagues.

Objectives. To:

1. Discuss aid effectiveness (and parliamentary scrutiny) in Zambia with the PAC, Auditor-General and other parliamentary colleagues, with particular reference to UK and EU-funded projects
2. Learn about the funding and strengths of the Zambian Parliament
3. Learn about the impact of the world economic down-turn on the Zambian economy
4. Learn about the impact and challenges of Climate Change in Zambia
5. Understand better how gender issues impact upon the work of parliamentarians in Zambia
6. Contribute at joint parliamentary exchanges with Zambian colleagues on FOI (from a parliamentarian's perspective), relations with the media and working in parliament

SUMMARY

The CPA UK delegation's visit to Zambia was most successful and achieved the aim and all the objectives. The Westminster Members gained a better understanding of challenges facing their Zambian colleagues with whom they explored the issues of scrutiny, working in parliament, committee work, gender representation, climate change, the economic downturn and freedom of the press. As a result of the visit it is intended that there will be further bilateral parliamentary exchanges. The excellent programme arranged by the BHC with the National Assembly of Zambia (NAZ) achieved exactly the right balance, enabling the British MPs also to see elements of UK's international development programme in action on the ground working in partnership with Zambia to; ease the flow of trade and investment; continue the battle against HIV/Aids at both local and national levels level; and alleviate the plight of vulnerable and exploited women. CPA UK is grateful to Mr Speaker Mwanamwambwa and CPA Zambia for the invitation, hospitality and for the engagement of Zambia Members. Close involvement by the BHC in the parliamentary programme enabled BHC and DFID colleagues to gain a better knowledge of NAZ issues and to engage more closely with Zambian parliamentarians.

DETAILS

SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY – IN-COUNTRY BRIEFING AND PRESS CONFERENCE

Having had a comprehensive background briefing in London from the FCO, DFID and the British Council, on arrival in Lusaka the delegation received an in-depth up to date brief from HE Tom Carter⁴ and his FCO, DFID and British Council colleagues which brought issues sharply into focus. The briefing took Members through Zambia's transition through the "legacies" of peace, harmony, economic mismanagement, corruption and recent macroeconomic reform, relationships with Zimbabwe

⁴ The appointment of British High Commissioner in Zambia is unique in HM Diplomatic Service in that since September 2008 the husband and wife team of Tom Carter and Carolyn Davis has shared the appointment. Each serves four months at a time, thereby ensuring that neither repeats the same cycle. The Zambians have embraced the concept, as has the Mission in Lusaka.

and the strong position taken by the late President Mwanawasa, through to the present and the recently elected President Banda.

The immediate impact of the global economic downturn so far had not been too severe, but Zambia would suffer and copper prices had dropped and there was the whiff of protectionism in the air.

Through DFID, UK's aid to Zambia was some £45M in 2009/10 with £50M in 2010/11, most of which was channelled in direct budgetary support. Zambia was ahead of other recipient countries in donor coordination and together with the UK and five other donor countries operated 30-40 measurement output indicators against performance. During the recent Presidential bye-election in November 2008 (President Banda would serve out the balance of his (late) predecessor's term – 2.5 years), UK had put £750K to civil society organisations.

Parliamentary reform issues were concentrating on improving relations between parliamentarians and the constituencies, the capacity and functions of committees, media coverage in parliament – especially radio and the enhancement of parliamentary support services. In briefing on parliamentary scrutiny, mention was also made of the effective role of the current Auditor-General.

Press Briefing and Interviews. Having been briefed by the High Commissioner about the purpose of the CPA UK delegation's visit the representatives of ZNBC, the Times of Zambia and the Post questioned the Members about Zimbabwe, the copperbelt and the economic downturn, the impact of the global downturn on UK's international development programme. Members had been expecting a livelier and more robust question session and during answers responded that UK's development programme to Zambia was not only secure, but would increase by £5M in 2010/2011.

MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY – NAZ MEETINGS & BILATERAL EXCHANGES

Deputy Speaker. The delegation was hosted by Madam Deputy Speaker, Hon. Mutale W K Nalumango MP representing Mr Speaker who was in India. In addressing the delegation's objective **to learn about the funding and strengths of the Zambian Parliament** the single chamber NAZ and also **to understand better how gender issues impact upon the work of parliamentarians in Zambia**, the Deputy Speaker briefed Members that 23/158 Zambian MPs were women and that 8/158 MPs were nominated members. Given that three of the four CPA UK delegates were women there was special interest that constitutional reform of the NAZ was addressing the representation of women by considering having fixed numbers – affirmative action, or introducing proportional representation. Based on a mix of personal and party success, women found it more difficult in the re-election process. In Zambia there were many more rural than urban constituencies, but in the urban areas there was more of a tendency to vote for the parties rather than the individual MP.



*Figure 1. With Madam Deputy Speaker.
National Assembly of Zambia.*



Figure 2. In the

Chief Whip. Meeting the Chief Whip was a valuable experience for the delegation. Hon. V J Mwaanga MP outlined the breakdown of the parties in the NAZ (MMD-83, PDF-42, UPND-25, ULP-3, Independent-3, UNM-1, NDF-1). He had been a freedom fighter and a member of the original delegation which negotiated Zambian independence. He emphasised **the strength of the NAZ**, the current importance of the budget debate and how all Members would like to see an increase in the Constituency Development Fund⁵ (CDF) as a means of grass-roots delivery. The CDF was administered by local councils and audited by the Auditor-General.

CPA Zambia Branch. The exchanges with the Executive Committee of the CPA Zambia Branch were fruitful and covered **the strengths of the NAZ**. They began with the challenges for democracy and led on to Zimbabwe. CPA UK Members learnt of the close family links between Zambians and Zimbabwe, Zambian concerns about the state of affairs in Zimbabwe and the violence there and the great hope that had been engendered by the inclusion of the MDC and that something meaningful would emerge. Zambia continued to lobby hard on Zimbabwe within SADC, was concerned about the status of women in Zimbabwe and whilst sharing many of UK's concerns, highlighted to UK Members the emotive issue of land reform which had been used by Mugabe a trump card. Zambia Members appealed for the CPA to help parliamentary reform in Zimbabwe once the situation had settled down and stressed the importance of the CPA as a vehicle for discussion and mutual understanding.

Public Accounts Committee. The exchanges with nine members of the PAC, chaired by Hon C Milupi MP (Indep) were extremely lively and wide-ranging and covered **scrutiny, the capacity of the NAZ, aid-effectiveness and NAZ funding**. All Members discussed the role of a PAC in holding the Executive to account and Zambian Members outlined the limitations of their experience which made their task that much more challenging; thus there was a need to build the individual capacity of the Members of the Zambian PAC, many of whom were new Members. UK Members learnt of the issues there had been of mis-accounting and misappropriation and how the PAC was beginning to see a positive response to its work. Civil servants "dreaded" appearing before the PAC which was open to the public and the media. Whilst the Zambian Members wished to see an immediate impact of their work, under the Zambian constitution the PAC worked two years behind and there was hope that the new constitution now being written for implementation in 2010/2012 would give the PAC more teeth. UK was thanked for its assistance to the PAC and to Anti-Corruption Commission (the DFID consultant was present throughout) and UK Members learnt that Zambia held the chair of the SADC Organisation of PAC (SADCOPAC), an important organisation for assisting PAC in Southern Africa, especially during the current economic climate and which needed increased capacity. Other issues discussed covered:

- Permanent witnesses
- Value for money
- Checks and balances – illustrated by the PAC's visit to the completed bridge that did not exist
- Budget – hidden issues and time in formulation
- Need for more professionally qualified and accountable staff in Ministries; professional civil servants rather than Presidential nominations
- Devolution of power (with proper budget allocations) to local government
- Government action on PAC reports
- Contracts awarded by Government departments
- Action by donor countries to take action about corruption in the big (international) companies
- Successful prosecution of corrupt officials
- Concern about UK Companies and Crown Dependency tax havens

⁵ The CDF – used in many African countries and elsewhere as a means of delivering projects on the ground to constituents in the absence of devolved local government.

Exchanges with Zambian Colleagues on the Media and FOI Issues. Lively discussion took place between CPA UK Members and the eight Zambian Members of the Committee on Information and Broadcasting Services. The press in Zambia was limited numerically and in capacity and could not be rationalised with the media at Westminster and in the UK. ZNBC was a government broadcasting organisation; there was little independent radio/TV media outside Lusaka. Some of the Zambian Members expressed their concern over the freedom of the press which UK Members consistently, and throughout the whole visit, stressed as being absolutely fundamental to the democratic process and the public scrutiny of parliament and government. FOI and its implications were discussed at length between the two sets of parliamentarians.

Reception – Hosted by CPA Zambia. CPA UK Members had an opportunity to meet and exchange views with more Zambian colleagues at a short evening reception hosted by Hon. M M Mabenga MP, 1st Vice-President of the CPA Zambia Branch.

TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY – NAZ BILATERAL EXCHANGES, LUSAKA VISITS & UK BUSINESS

Parliamentary Reform and Modernisation. CPA UK Members and nine Zambian Members from the NAZ Committee on Parliamentary Reform and Modernisation, chaired by Hon. E C Mwansa MP and which included the Ministers of Justice and Local Government discussed **the effectiveness** of the NAZ's Reform and Modernisation programme, funded by DFID, Irish Aid and UNDP. There were three phases to the programme and there were useful exchanges on the dichotomy the Zambians faced with an executive President, the government and a parliament run on Westminster lines. There were challenges in holding both the President and the government to account and the power of an executive President. The programme was moving ahead and there was now (2008) funding of constituency offices – by the NAZ, rather than the employing MPs, which added to the exchanges between the Members. UK Members were briefed by their Zambian colleagues on the traditional demands Zambian MPs faced from their constituents in the form of education subsidies, health-care, wedding and funeral expenses – all of which were expected to come from an MP's income.

Climate Change. CPA UK Members briefed Zambian colleagues from the NAZ Committee on Energy, Environment and Tourism chaired by Hon. G G Nkombo MP on the situation regarding climate change and global warming issues in the UK, including the recent legislation, emphasising the importance UK attached to the challenges and recognising the responsibility of the UK and others. Zambian Members then briefed on the growing realisation of the **challenges of climate change in Zambia** and the dangers of deforestation, very noticeable changes in rainfall patterns and the introduction and control of bio-fuels. CPA UK's visit coincided with Zambia's selection to be one of three African pilot projects for a major multi-donor Climate Resilience Programme funded by DFID and others which was announced to the Minister of Finance during the later (Friday) meeting with him.

Gender Issues. Discussions with the NAZ Women's Caucus were very lively and there was only one male (UK) member involved. CPA UK Members learnt about and discussed the role of the (multi-party) Women's Caucus and of gender issues in Zambia, the NAZ, SADC and the Commonwealth. Zambian Members stressed the importance of the role of women in national development. In turn Conservative and Labour Members outlined their respective priorities on the representation of women in the UK Parliament and the UK view of not concentrating too much on specific "women's issues". Zambian Members covered the PhD (pull her down) culture that sometimes existed in Zambian politics, expressed their view of the good work being done by NGOs on women's issues, but spoke of the challenges women candidates faced in being adopted across the Zambian political spectrum – all parties and from local councillor to MP. Education of men was another big challenge and "well qualified" and "high quality" were expected of women candidates, but not of the men. In terms of the empowerment of women and micro-finance in Zambia the UK Members heard of EMILY – Early Money is Like Yeast.

Visit to Kabulonga School for Boys. Kabulonga School for Boys (KSB) in Lusaka had twinned with Buckingham School as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games legacy programme. In Zambia the British Council's *International Inspirations* programme formed part of the legacy programme within which KSB had taken up "Dreams and Teams". "Dreams and Teams" was about self awareness, leadership, responsibility and confidence. Senior boys in the 1500 strong Zambian school ran several activities for pupils from their own and other Lusaka schools using culture and sport (rugby and hockey) as vehicles for "Dreams and Teams" with the aspiration of producing Zambian athletes for 2012. It was an inspiring group of students and CPA UK Members were impressed with what was being achieved.

Visit to M'tendere VCT Centre – Africa Directions. Travelling from a well-appointed secondary school to the very poor M'tendere compound community in Lusaka as part of the objective to see the **effectiveness of UK aid** working, CPA UK Members visited an HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centre for children and young people run by Africa Directions. The VCT Centre received some funding from DFID (STARZ HIV and AIDS programme in partnership with other donors) through Zambia National AIDS Network (ZANAN) with coordination from the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council (NAC). An immense amount was achieved by a group of dedicated people who ran prevention and education programmes using drama, theatre, sport (CPA UK Members presented some footballs and England football strip) and empowerment activities for high risk groups – girls, young women and mothers in addition to running outreach education programmes focussing on stigma and discrimination. HIV and AIDS remained Zambia's key development challenge and whilst the national prevalence rate had reduced from 15.6% in 2002 to 14.3% in 2007 the rate for young people aged 15-19 had increased over the same period. ARV drugs were not available at the centre.



Figure 3. At M'tendere VCT Centre.

Figure 4. At MSL.

Visit to Medical Stores Limited (MSL). Zambia's MSL – government-owned company operated a national medical store for all Zambia's drugs and medical supplies and distributed them throughout the country to every hospital and medical centre. Crown Agents had won a management services contract to run the outsourced company with a remit to train and develop staff capabilities and new operating systems whilst planning and implementing a major capital investment programme. CPA UK's delegation visited the very modern and exciting facility because DFID funding with funding from other donors had enabled the refurbishment and development of the national store.

Meeting with British Business Group (BBG) – BHC Residence. The meeting with the BBG enabled CPA UK Members to gain different views of the **effectiveness of UK aid** and the **impact of the global economic downturn** on/in Zambia. It was a lively meeting which brought out a wide spectrum of views and comments. Unsurprisingly there were fresh challenges in the finance and monetary sectors. Some hoped that the exchange rate drop to KW6,000.00 - \$1.00 would presage some new fiscal regulations and that companies with funds outside Zambia should bring them back in. Prior to the CPA UK delegation's visit to the copperbelt the next day, there were some concerns expressed about cut-backs in production and reducing labour costs. There also was concern that trade restrictions might be brought in, when it

was felt that the economy in Zambia (and Africa) needed private sector development. There was an exchange of views on governance and CPA UK Members spoke of the encouraging session with the PAC.

WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY – COPPERBELT

Accompanied by three Zambian Members the CPA UK Members together with the BHC flew to the copperbelt at Chingola to visit the Konkola Copper Mine (KCM) at Chililabombwe, a subsidiary of Vedanta, an Indian company listed in London. After an upbeat briefing on the **impact of the economic downturn** the Group learnt that costs had reduced from 300¢/lb to 200¢/lb and it was hoped to reduce further to 150¢/lb. KCM also planned to increase output and to produce 50% (500K tons pa) of Zambian copper production by 2010 – a three-fold increase. A visit to Konkola mine to look at the new shaft headings and a model room presentation on Nchanga mine were followed by a visit to Chingola open pit; a huge operation. The final site visit was to the ultra-modern new smelter at Nchanga. Vedanta's great investment in KCM and the optimistic plans for the future belied some of the views CPA UK Members had heard from one or two BBG members the previous evening. CPA UK Members hoped that Zambia would continue to remain attractive for mining investment.

Meeting with NGOs and Civil Society. Led by the Director of OXFAM GB in Zambia, representatives of five Zambian CSOs – the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, the Zambian Centre for Inter-Party Dialogue, Transparency International, Plan SA and the Foundation for Democratic Process engaged with the CPA UK Members in a lively hour's debate on **governance and international development issues** which would supplement previous briefings prior to Friday's meetings. There was agreement that Direct Budget Support was the best way to deliver international development funds, but there was concern over the monitoring processes, quoting the Auditor-General who in 2007 highlighted weak coordination of donors, the slow pace of reform and the slow pace of decentralisation. FOI and the independence of the media were also concerns and there was belief that the Media Council should be strengthened. The need for Zambia to do more about Zimbabwe came to the fore as did the imperative to involve civil society in the National Constitutional Conference in the run up to the NCC Act, parts of which were planned to put to a referendum. It was essential that the people understood and could contribute to the debate. It was hoped that the remaining anti-corruption legislation initiated by the late President would be implemented soon and that the audit facilities in Ministries and government departments would be enlarged. Turning to the electoral process the CSO expressed concerns over voter turnout (lack of interest, access to polling stations), compliance of the process and continuous registration. Although some of the discussions with UK Members would continue the next evening, OXFAM GB summarised by stating that there was an active CSO network in Zambia and some positive and increasing engagement from government.



*Figure 5. in the Copperbelt.
7. With Zimbabwean Women at Chirundu.*

Figure 6. At the One Stop Border Post. Figure

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY – ONE-STOP BORDER POST & MIGRANT CENTRE AT CHIRUNDU

One Stop Border Post (OSBP). After protracted negotiations the OSBP between Zambia and Zimbabwe at Chirundu, the third busiest in Southern Africa was planned to open in April 2009. Together

with the District Officer, CPA UK Members and two local Zambian MPs learnt how DFID funding had accelerated the process on both sides of the border with new legislation to help ease the national and international complexities, the design of new site facilities, new IT systems and project/programme management. The implementation of the OSBP would speed the flow of trucks across the border from 3-4 days to two hours. Cost savings would be immense and if the pilot project at Chirundu proved to be a success, it was planned to roll out similar OSBP elsewhere in Africa. From the two countries 18 government agencies were now successfully working together.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Project. It was hoped that one of the major impacts of the successful implementation of the OSBP would be a reduction in the commercial sex trade and irregular migration at Chirundu. Currently irregular migrants travelled hundreds of kilometres to Chirundu to participate in the blatant and lucrative business. Funded by DFID and other donors the IOM together with local volunteers and authorities had established a support centre for the Zimbabwean women to provide basic services of water, sanitation and information; no accommodation or medical treatment. CPA UK Members learnt about IOM's work, met the staff and the participants of a gender workshop taking place at the time – who generously shared their lunch with the visitors. The value of the work and the anticipated short time for truck transit at the OSBP became even more important when CPA UK Members went into the local market and met the Zimbabwean women.

FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY – NAZ QUESTION-TIME & VISITS TO COMMISSIONS

TV Producers – China in Zambia. Over a working breakfast CPA UK Members met brothers Nick and Mark Francis and were briefed on the making of their latest 90 minute TV documentary on the important role of China in Africa with its special focus on Zambia.

Vice-President's Questions. CPA UK Members were acknowledged and welcomed to the NAZ by the Deputy Speaker at the start of Question-Time. Members first heard the Foreign Minister answer questions on Zimbabwe's new power-sharing government and plans to transform the African Union's authority – which provoked several more questions from the floor about the mandate of the government to conduct any such negotiations. The role of the Vice-President includes taking (UK PM-style) questions. During the lively second part UK Members heard about maize and food prices, claims that the Election Commission had been withholding information, the stabilization of the exchange rate, protection for whistle-blowers as part of the fight against corruption, the size of constituencies, the visit of Graça Machel, the size and costs of the President's overseas visits and the falling price of copper. It was an enjoyable session and UK Members later learnt more of the process whereby the questions had been tabled.

Electoral Commission (EC). CPA UK Members and the accompanying Zambian Members were briefed by the Commission. As there was no large permanent staff at the EC temporary civil servant staff were trained up when an election was announced and although the EC was autonomous, continuous voter registration had started only in 2009 coordinated by UNDP with funding support from DFID and others, (CPA UK Members commented that continuous voter registration had only recently started in the UK). As well as in-country training for EC officials, several had visited other countries (cp Ghana) to look at best practices. Members were assured that whilst the EC enjoyed government support, it was independent. Voter education was most important as many voters were illiterate or poorly educated and the EC was not content having to take on temporary staff from the Ministry of Local Government who in turn hired teachers, to man the polling stations. A permanent EC registration presence was needed in each District and since the Presidential bye-election all nine Provinces had been visited. The increase in Zambia's population meant that the number of constituencies would increase from 150 to 200. The funding of political parties was not a responsibility of the EC, but the Registrar of Societies, a government organisation.

Auditor-General (AG). As with the NAO in UK and as discussed earlier in the week by the PAC, the AG was a permanent witness to the PAC. Work on last year's government accounts had started in January 2009 and would be reported by the AG by 31 December 2009. Any corrupt practices found

during the process were acted upon immediately. Performance, environmental, IT and financial audits were undertaken, but in Zambia there was a need for more performance audits to demonstrate value for money, effectiveness, efficiency and the management of risk. The AG was concerned that courts took a long time over corruption cases and often the statute of limitations kicked in. There were challenges with the political will to prosecute in some cases and the AG and others suffered from a lack of capacity. However, improvements were happening and it was important that top government officials were career civil servants, not government appointees. In response to UK Members' questions, the AG stated that her "hot spots" were revenue collection then procurement issues – one mile of road cost Kw40M in Malawi, Kw1Bn in Zambia. There had been some dialogue with CSO and donors concerning aid expenditure and work to protect whistle-blowers involving TI and Oxfam was in hand, but the AG budget had been cut drastically from Kw41Bn to Kw36Bn when the bid had been Kw53Bn. The AG received excellent commitment from MPs and the PAC, all of whom were very supportive.

Minister of Finance and National Planning. To learn more about aid effectiveness and the impact of the global down-turn on the Zambian economy CPA UK Members met Hon. Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane MP and his Deputy Minister both of whom had been nominated MPs in 2009. UK was the biggest bilateral donor to Zambia most of which came as direct budget support which the Minister considered much better than project support. UK also was assisting in the areas of health, good governance and poverty reduction. The Minister considered that it was time to attract more private investment to Zambia to assist development – such as the tourist industry, but although Zambia was stable and peaceful, in common with most African countries she was lumped together with "bad" countries. The economic crisis had hit Zambia. Copper prices had fallen over 50% in 12 months, but the Minister believed that if Zambia could attract £2-3M of investment each year the economy would be transformed. In answering questions from UK Members the Minister stated that whilst Zambia was actively pursuing the fight against corruption, she also needed to create employment. Zambia could diversify more into agriculture. There was plenty of water and Zambia could be food sufficient and produce crops for bio-fuels. Farming blocks needed to be opened up. Three Special Economic Zones were being established, one in the copperbelt with help from China and two in Lusaka with help from Malaysia and Japan. Following further discussions about the need for balance between development, inward investment, protection of the environment and climate change, the BHC invited Zambia through the Finance Minister to take part in the Climate Change Resilience Programme which would involve funding support from DFID. Having just been briefed by the AG about her likely budget cut, UK Members raised the matter with the Finance Minister who in acknowledging the AG's representation, agreed that he was looking at an upward readjustment.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). UK had had a long-term relationship with the ACC in terms of technical and financial assistance to build capacity, infrastructure and accessibility. Corruption remained a serious problem in Zambia and ACC work was not cheap. From a wide-ranging and impressive briefing given by the Acting Commissioner, UK Members learnt of the good relationship between the AG and the ACC. They would take back to the UK an understanding that the challenges for the ACC included work load, staff capacity, training, approval of ACC policy by the Cabinet which remained outstanding for over two years, the slow dispensation of justice – acknowledged by the Chief Justice, road haulage issues, procurement processes, weak political will – the 1982 ACC Act was hugely out of date, and the recovery of the proceeds of crime. Appointments to the ACC were not decided by the President, but by an independent committee who made the recommendation to the President who then acted on it. In drawing the meeting to an end the ACC outlined the responsibilities of the Task Force on Corruption which was investigating the plunder of national resources which had occurred during former President Chiluba's term of office.

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY – DEPART

COMMENTS & OUTCOMES

The aim and objectives were met and the visit was a great success. The CPA UK Members enjoyed the excellent programme which they found extremely stimulating and from which they gained a great deal. The success of the programme which had been organised by Florence Mbandahla (BHC Lusaka) with the NAZ proved the format of lively exchanges between Members on parliamentary capacity-building and strengthening issues and visits to DFID-funded/sponsored projects to assess the effectiveness international aid. The aim and objectives had been discussed in detail and agreed by the BHC and NAZ in the planning period.

It proved too that when visiting partner parliaments CPA UK might need to cost-share with the host parliament and that the BHC frequently would need to play a major part in the organisation of the programme.

Visit Outcomes. There were now closer parliamentary relations between Zambia and the UK and as a result of the visit it was likely that CPA UK and the NAZ would commence a partnership of activities to strengthen parliamentary democracy in Zambia; details were awaited from CPA Zambia. Other outcomes were that the BHC gained better access to and knowledge of the NAZ and learnt more of the parliamentary challenges in Zambia.

r) NAMIBIA

At the invitation of the CPA Namibia Branch a delegation visited Namibia from 15-21 February 2009. The delegation was composed as follows:

Leader: Mr Tim Yeo MP (Conservative)
Mr Andrew Dismore MP (Labour)
Sir Nicholas Winterton DL MP (Conservative)
Ms Margaret Moran MP (Labour)
Lord Faulkner of Worcester (Labour)
Baroness D'Souza (Crossbench)

Secretary: Miss Lucy Moore

Mrs Diane Yeo and Ms Linda Julian accompanied Mr Tim Yeo MP and Mr Andrew Dismore MP respectively.

Aim: To learn more of the challenges and opportunities for Namibia in a rapidly changing world.

Objectives To:

- Discuss issues surrounding the development of a democratic system
- Learn about environmental challenges and sustainable tourism
- Be briefed on health related issues, with special focus on malaria and HIV/AIDS
- Explore the infrastructural limitations of a geographically large country with a relatively small population
- Be briefed on Anglo-Namibian issues

SUMMARY

In line with Branch strategy, the CPA UK Branch sent a delegation to Namibia in February at the invitation of the Namibia CPA Branch. We are most grateful for the extremely warm welcome and hospitality we received during the visit and most objectives were achieved.

PROGRAMME

Sunday 15 Feb Windhoek	Informal Briefing with British High Commissioner Mr Mark Bensberg, Deputy High Commissioner Gary Leslie and British Council Representative, Mr Ronnie Micallef
Monday 16 Feb Swakopmund	Travelled by road from Windhoek. Visit to Rössing Uranium Mine, Lunch at Aradis Village and visit to Education centre. Meeting with CPA Branch Chair Hon. Hafeni Ndemula MP and Regional Governor of Erongo, Hon. SS Nuuyoma. Dinner hosted by Hon. Ndemula and attended by local Council members and MPs.
Tuesday 17 Feb Windhoek	Drive back to Windhoek. Meeting with members of Political Parties. Attended Official Opening of Parliament by President of the Republic of Namibia, HE President Hifikepunye Pohamba.
Wednesday 18 Feb Windhoek	Courtesy Call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Marco Hausiku MP; meeting with the Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Paul Smith MP. Lunch hosted by HE Mark Bensberg at the High Commissioner's Residence. Tour of Windhoek including Katutura. Dinner hosted by Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Dr Richard Kamwi MP.
Thursday 19 Feb Windhoek	Meeting with Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Dr Richard Kamwe MP; meeting with the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah MP. Courtesy call on Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab MP. Lunch with members of the Namibian Parliament. Meeting with the Director of the National Planning Commission Dr Peter Katjavivi. Evening reception hosted by HE Mark Bensberg at the Residence.
Friday 20 Feb Windhoek	Visit to Namibia Meat Corporation Ltd (MeatCo). Visit to Okapuka Game Lodge. Dinner hosted by Vice Chair of the National Council, Hon. Mwadina Muashekele-Sibiya MP.

Discuss issues surrounding the development of a democratic system

The delegation learnt much about the Namibian democratic system during their visit, particularly from meetings held with members of all the political parties, and the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, as well as through discussions with the numerous other Members of Parliament who were able to meet the delegates.



The Delegation meeting with Hon. Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab MP, Speaker of the National Assembly

In November 2009 Namibia will hold presidential and parliamentary elections. The Namibian system is bicameral and consists of the National Assembly (Lower Chamber) and National Council (Upper Chamber). In terms of local governance, Namibia has 13 regions and each has a Regional Council which is responsible for the 'development and administration' of the region. These councils consist of between 6 and 12 councillors who are elected under a constituency system. The Councils elect a Governor from amongst themselves to lead the Council.

Elections for the National Assembly operate under a list system - the electorate vote for parties and not the member. Namibia is a multiparty democracy that is currently dominated by the SWAPO Party with opposition groups currently holding 18 of the 78 seats in Assembly. COD is currently the largest opposition group with 5 seats and 10% of the vote. For the most part opposition parties are splinters of SWAPO. It is felt that the political landscape will start to change as the ruling party has undoubtedly benefited from the independence dividend, however this year will be the first election in which the 'Born Free' generation will vote, i.e. those born after independence.

The list system was discussed in depth throughout the visit in terms of the limitations that this may pose to the development of Namibia's democratic system. Each party must submit at least 24 names on their list and the members are selected when the number of seats is known after the election. The nomination to that list differs by party. SWAPO operates under an 'electoral system' in which 400-500 delegates vote for members to be placed on the list. It is felt that the list system may limit the development of Namibia's democratic system as the members' position is due entirely to the party and so they do not have a loyalty to particular constituency. The large majority held by SWAPO also makes it difficult for the opposition to have a tangible effect on legislation. However change to the system is likely to be slow.

The National Council consists of 26 members that are chosen by the regional councils. During its first meeting the regional Councils chooses two of its members to serve on the National Council. They are elected to sit for six years.

Elections are understood to be reasonably fair but the advantage of incumbency is a particular issue for opposition groups. Hon Justus Garoeb MP, Leader of the UDF Party, noted that although all parties get state funds, last year UDF was allocated less than NAD\$1million to cover all its administrative work and the costs of competing in the elections out of a total of NAD\$17million in funds available. Funds are

allocated on the basis of the proportion of the national vote won by the party. It was also noted that media access is uneven as it is related to the number of seats the party has in Parliament.

Speaker Hon. Gurirab expressed dissatisfaction with the level of activism in the Namibian committees. As institutions they are still not particularly robust and there are also capacity and personnel issues. The Speaker believed that Namibia will eventually move towards the select committee system but that it is an evolving process.

Learn about environmental challenges and sustainable tourism

The delegation met with Hon. Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism and discussions on the tourist industry in Namibia was raised in a number of other meetings. The sector has been doing very well – in 2006 around 800,000 tourists arrived in Namibia and increased to over 900,000 in 2007. Tourism contributes 16% towards GDP and employs 18,000 people in a variety of areas. Most tourists are from Europe and South Africa and Britain is the second highest source of visitors to Namibia. Hunting is an attractive part of tourism in Namibia, and these tourists usually come from Germany although game tourists are increasingly coming from the UK and US. Namibia is also preparing for an increase in tourism as a result of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. 97-98% of lodges are privately owned although there are a few that are run through a parastatal organisation because they are in protected areas.

The law does not prevent outside companies from setting up businesses in the country so long as they are registered as a Namibian Company. Namibians run most lodges but the majority of owners are white and this is considered as part of the national reconciliation policy. Quality of service was noted as a weakness in the existing tourist industry and the Namibian's hope to address this in the future.

Tourism in Namibia is based on ecotourism hence the two portfolios are held together. In 2007 Namibia passed the Environmental Management Act that governs all environmental issues. Municipalities also have their own by-laws that have restrictions. During the delegations' visit the Ministry was in the process of hiring an Environmental Commissioner. It is also law that any developmental programme at any level must go through an environmental assessment to assess the impact of the proposal. Although there was not a specific Environmental Management Law before 2007 there had been work undertaken to protect the environment already. For example the Coast Line Project was undertaken to sensitise people to the importance of the coast. There is also sports tourism specific to the coast – for example Quad biking etc. There is demarcation of specific areas on the coast for sports tourism activities so that both tourism and the ecosystem can be maintained simultaneously there. The government plans to pass a coastal activities law in the near future. The lack of previous legislation has caused problems for example those building houses on the coast could not make use of any available guidance and there has been a number of victims of high tide levels.

In 2008 Namibia passed a law in support of endangered and protected species and the Ministry is paying special attention attached to wildlife management. In terms of natural resources management the Ministry works closely with the communities and communities themselves define the areas for conservancies. If there is no game then it is relocated from National Parks and private farms. When the community has accepted to live with wildlife and it is compensated accordingly. Annually the conservancies have a quota according to the number of game which enables them to designate a certain number for game meat but also to trophy hunters. There is income available to the community from both sources while limiting the numbers of game on the land. In some places this is working very well.

The biggest challenge is wildlife-human conflict and the species most difficult to control is the elephant. Many conflicts arise because of animals searching for water and so increasingly there are specific water points allocated for game and separate ones for humans to avoid struggles for this resource. The Agriculture Minister is responsible for human water points and so the ministries work together.

The delegation also discussed Climate Change with Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah. There are many communities affected by an increase in rain. On the one hand some communities are celebrating while in others (particularly the North) there has been severe flooding. There are also a number of cases where there was such a long period without rain that people began to build in water run passages and they have since been severely affected by the rains.

Be briefed on health related issues with special focus on malaria and HIV/AIDS

Over 85% of the Namibian population now has access to health services. Each district has a primary health care coordinator who supervises clinic and has outreach services that cover immunisation of the population.

The delegation was given an excellent presentation by the Ministry of Health and Social Services in a meeting attended by Hon. Minister Richard Nchabi Kamwi MP, Hon Deputy Minister Petrina Nguru, Chief Medical Officer Dr Celeste De Klerk (Head of HIV/AIDS Control), Chief Medical Officer Dr Siku and Director Sheheku. The presentation gave a detailed account of Namibia's work combating HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Work to combat HIV/AIDS in Namibia has been very successful and is primarily a system of early cycle prevention. In 2002 the national rate for HIV/AIDS was 22%, this is now in decline and is at 17.8%. There are also improvements in the rate of Sexually Transmitted Infections: in 2006-7 the rate of STI was at 67,000 and by 2008 this had decreased to 43,778. The target for access to treatment and ARVs for 2008 was in fact reached in 2006 and treatment coverage is currently at 75% of those eligible. Free condom distribution across the country is in place – there are distribution offices in each region which in turn is enabling authorities to see a corresponding reduction in other STIs.

154 Public Health facilities now offer testing and 135,000 people received counselling and testing in the year 2007-2008. Previously there would be a problem with people being tested but not returning to collect their results. To combat this results are now given immediately. There is also increased testing amongst TB patients – every TB case is now counselled and tested for HIV.

HIV is an evolving disease and so they are looking at the drugs used to treat it. For example, they moved to using AZT but this causes problems with Anaemia and so the number of transfusions has gone up. ART programme has only been running since 2003, and those on the system are still alive.

In terms of prevention of mother to child transmission, 2008 guidance was revised and now treatment is given at 8 weeks pregnancy. This is due to be implemented throughout the country by the end of 2009. There is no reduction in the birth rate and more HIV positive patients are opting to have children as they believe they may not necessarily transmit the disease. However Namibia does not have sperm washing facilities and so it is easier to prevent transmission in cases where the woman is positive. More than 90% of such children are born without HIV and so it is hoped that they will be able to eventually eliminate the disease. However there is a fear that people will become blasé.

There are challenges to be overcome however, for example control of the disease from cross-border movement. One idea was to target truck drivers and prostitutes as a way of engaging high risk groups and so a clinic has been set up on the Namibian side of the South African border. ART distribution hasn't been established across the border, but where TB is concerned treatment can be given. STIs can be treated in a different country but ART is a long-term treatment system and so is not conducive to cross-border health care.

One of the biggest challenges is dealing with adults who acquired HIV through their mothers as there can be problems surrounding disclosure. Mothers tend to disclose the child's status late in the day and may even indicate to their child that they have a different ailment. When the child finds out about their status

there is a 'denial stage' as part of coping with this. The Ministry is working with psychologists to address this issue and there is a pilot adolescent clinic underway which is going well.

Malaria remains a major priority for the Ministry as 9 out of Namibia's 13 regions are affected, as is 68% of the population. Malaria is endemic in prone areas and Okahanja, the southernmost limit of the malarial zone is just 70km from Windhoek. However there is positive development in that malaria has been in decline since 2004 and mortality from malaria has been in steady decline from 88 deaths in 2000 to just 6 in 2006. This is largely due to improved spraying treatment and net availability, and malarial drugs are freely provided to women and children. An epidemic was expected due to the floods in 2009 and the Ministry was surprised to find that this did not occur.

In terms of challenges, the biggest issue facing Namibia is in terms of human resources. There remains a shortage of skilled personnel in the Namibian Health industry; for example, it was only in 2008 that Windhoek obtained its own cardiac unit. Until then they were required to send their patients to South Africa or even as far as Nairobi. Some complicated cases are still sent to South Africa, and there is a bilateral agreement between most SADC states.

Infant mortality, just like maternal mortality, also remains a challenge. It is not possible to give the exact rate, but Namibia does have one of the lowest in comparison to the rest of the region, particularly when compared to Malawi and Zambia. Namibia is trailing just behind South Africa and Botswana.

Explore the infrastructural limitations of a geographically large country with a relatively small population

Although Namibia is classed as a Middle Income Country, it is important to realise that this is primarily due to income disparity. UN statistics report that Namibia's Gini Coefficient makes it the 2nd or 3rd in the world in terms of inequality. This has worsened and effectively Namibia it is a developing country. 70% of the population live on less than \$2 per day and those living in the North of the country exist at subsistence levels. There is infrastructure but only up to a point; frequently businesses are limited in that they have to turn down contracts because Namibia does not have the infrastructure to handle an increase in business.

In their meeting with the Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Paul Smith MP, the Minister gave a detailed briefing on Namibia's plans to develop its infrastructure and the issues that they face. The Namibians are working towards a plan for the next 30 years with 5-year strategic plans that slot into the National Development Programme.

Namibia is due to invest about NAD\$1.5 billion into developing maritime capacity, and they are in the process of developing Walvis Bay Port, however there is no point in investing into maritime capacity without developing the ability to transport the goods inland. There is an airport at Walvis Bay but this requires NAD\$300million to upgrade so that it can take larger airplanes. Overall more than one billion NAD\$ is required to upgrade the airports in Namibia.

On road development, the principle is that the user pays for the upgrades and maintenance through fuel tax and cross border charges etc., but this will not be enough. Namibia is in the process of putting together the financial requirements for road development but believe they will require a great deal of outside help. The roads in the Northern part of the country are in vast need of development and then tourist and agriculture potential in that region can be unlocked. It is estimated that it will require NAD\$1billion of investment to rehabilitate Namibia's roads.

NAD\$2billion of immediate investment would be required to get rail services up to an acceptable level. The operation of Namibia's rail belongs to the government as a parastatal. It is believed that this will not work and so there is a need for an operator to take the rail services over independently from the government. There is also a feasibility study being undertaken on laying a rail line from the northeast to

Livingstone, creating a connection to the copper belt, and there is also good potential for transporting iron ore from southern Angola.

The cost of capital is often seen as the major stumbling block. The Minister specifically noted that fluctuating exchange rates have a severe effect on Namibia's debts: while obtaining a loan at 1-2% may be cheap at the outset, fluctuations in the exchange rate can make a huge difference in real terms. The Minister suggested that when loans are negotiated they should be talked about in terms of Namibian Dollars to avoid this problem.

The time the delegation spent in the Walvis Bay area and Swakopmond emphasised these issues as although the coastal region is the major tourist destination for the country the only transport option to get there is via road.



Delegation meeting the Governor of Erongo Province, Swakopmund

In a meeting with the Director General of The National Planning Commission Namibia, Dr. Peter Katjavivi, the delegation discussed the shortage of electrical infrastructure in the country. Namibia is in need of a new power station which may perhaps be located in Walvis Bay. Namibia had recently signed an agreement to connect their electricity networks to their neighbours funded by the European Development Bank and the Namibian Development Bank.

Be briefed on Anglo-Namibian issues

The delegation was briefed by the High Commission and it is understood that the relationship between the UK and Namibia is very strong. The one area where British-Namibian relations do not agree is in terms of policy towards Zimbabwe, and this was discussed in the meetings held with members of the opposition parties and with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Marco Hausiku MP.

There are economic interests for the UK in Namibia, particularly in the Mining sector and as part of the programme the delegation visited the Rössing Uranium Mine owned by Rio Tinto.



The Delegation touring the Rössing Uranium Mine

The delegation also had the opportunity to meet with the British Council Representative, Mr Ronnie Micallef. The British Council presence in Namibia is relatively new. Only 1% of the population speak English (the National Language) at home and there are 16 different local languages spoken in Namibia. There is a government project to train 22,000 teachers in English language teaching over 3 years at the cost of approximately GBP£5million. There is also a programme to train senior police inspectors in Namibia and poor English skills are considered to be a major cause of failure in the justice system causing potential for miscarriages of justice for both the prosecutors and the defendants. The training of police and army is also important in terms of Namibia's contribution to UN Peacekeeping forces. Director General of The National Planning Commission Namibia, Dr. Peter Katjavivi, emphasised that the training provided by the UK to serving police and defence forces was crucial in enabling better communication. Dr. Katjavivi wanted to record his thanks and appreciation on this matter.

s) PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP, UGANDA

Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of Bills, House of Commons writes:

The UK Branch of the CPA invited Rt Hon Joan Ryan MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Lord (David) Chidsey and Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of Bills in the House of Commons, to take part in a Parliamentary Workshop for the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, funded by the British High Commission in Kampala.

The Workshop originated in a suggestion by some Ugandan MPs who had visited Westminster that there would be value in bringing a Westminster team to Kampala in order to share expertise with a wider audience of Ugandan Members. We are very grateful to the British High Commissioner HE Martin Shearman, Second Secretary Political Jason Grimes and locally engaged Isabel Turner for all their briefing, hospitality and practical arrangements.

Our first call on Monday 16 February was on the Prime Minister Professor Apolo Nsibambi, who is the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. Uganda has a strong executive President in Yoweri Museveni, so the Prime Minister's position is a relatively weak one. Professor Nsibambi, who holds a doctorate in political science, has never stood in a contested election; like more than a dozen of the Cabinet Ministers, he is an ex officio Member of Parliament.

President Museveni leads the National Resistance Movement, which formerly ran the country under a “no party” system but which is now by far the largest party in the multi-party system re-introduced in 1996. Professor Nsibambi told us that he disagreed with his President on the matter of party discipline; in his own view, expelling a couple of disloyal NRM members would set a good example to encourage the others to stay in line. He regretted the lack of effective intermediate sanctions, short of expulsion, for recalcitrant MPs. The President’s reluctance to expel Members from the party was founded on Article 83 of the Constitution, under which any Members changing their party status automatically lost their seats in Parliament.

The failure of the 2008 peace talks with the Lord’s Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony to end two decades of war in the North had led to a renewed three-country effort to crush the few hundred remaining LRA fighters still in the jungle border region. International Criminal Court warrants had been issued for the rebel leaders, but Professor Nsibambi made clear that he would be happier if Kony were taken dead rather than alive. A major \$600 million reconstruction programme would be needed to resettle the North after Kony’s imminent and final defeat. Chronic instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo would continue to be a threat to Uganda.

Returning to parliamentary issues, Professor Nsibambi complained that despite the existence of a Business Committee to regulate the agenda of Parliament, private Members took up an inordinate amount of time raising supposedly “emergency” issues. Ministers disliked being ambushed, and preferred to have notice in order to provide a proper response to matters raised. The inadequacy of the 170-seat Chamber for the 333 Members of Parliament was exacerbated by the relatively small number of Opposition Members taking up a full half of the Chamber, as in Westminster. On a controversial topic such as the pending Land Amendment Bill, about 80 per cent of Members would want to take part in the debate.

The minimum educational requirement to stand for Parliament was an A Level certificate. In addition to the 215 single member constituencies, each of the 79 districts elected a woman, by universal suffrage. The Military Council elected a further 10 Members, and there were also five Members each to represent workers, young people and people with disabilities, in addition to the ex officio Ministers. Some of the more remote constituencies had very small populations.

Informal co-operation with the leading Opposition party, the Forum for Democratic Change, was good. The FDC’s leader, Dr Kizza Besigye, did not have a seat in Parliament. Professor Nsibambi no longer expressed in public his thanks to Dr Latigo, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, for his co-operation since doing so tended to undermine Dr Latigo’s position. The removal of term limits for the presidency had been major political issue; now the only restriction was an upper age limit, which would not affect the sitting President for some time yet.

Members were constantly trying to secure more resources. Their constituents demanded money for everything from school fees to coffins. There was a worrying tendency towards the commercialisation of politics. Party financing of elections could reduce the financial burden on individual candidates. He was concerned at the readiness of political elites to make allegations of election-rigging in advance of the polls in 2011 and he feared their reluctance to concede defeat when fairly beaten. He trusted the Electoral Commission, and the independent Judiciary to protect the integrity of the electoral process.

Over lunch at the High Commissioner’s residence we met Simon Osborn of ERIS (Electoral Reform International Services). Simon tries to co-ordinate various European donor activities under the umbrella of the Deepening Democracy Programme — the US agencies are barred by Congressional mandate from pooling resources with others. Simon described the impressive efforts to construct an accurate and reliable electoral register, based on individual photographs of each elector. The very bad experience of the elections in neighbouring Kenya in December 2007 was concentrating minds in the run up to Uganda’s polls in 2011.

In the afternoon we called on Speaker Edward Ssekandi, who was accompanied by Dison Okumu, the Director of the Parliament's Planning and Development Co-ordination Office. The Speaker rehearsed the ups and downs of Uganda's parliamentary history. He thought that it was an advantage to have fixed terms between elections, with no prorogation or dissolution. As Speaker, he did not attend NRM party caucuses but he was bound to retain his party membership since otherwise he would be liable to expulsion under Article 83. He thought it was very beneficial to share experience with other parliaments with a view to enhancing Members' capacity.

Our final afternoon engagement was an informal call upon Dr Latigo in his relatively new Office as Leader of the Opposition. He shared his frustration over the tendency of State protocol officials to overlook his position, as for example in the arrangements the Queen's visit to Parliament during the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala.

The High Commissioner gave a dinner at the Emin Pasha Hotel where we were joined by several Ugandan MPs including the Leader of the Opposition Dr Latigo, Government Chief Whip Princess Masiko Kabakumba, Opposition Chief Whip Wadri Kassiano, Chair of the Defence and Internal Affairs Committee Mathias Kasamba and J.L. Okello-Okello, the leader of the UPC (one of the smaller Opposition parties). The Chief Whips had spent some time at Westminster towards the end of 2008. We learned the next day of the President's reshuffle, in which the Princess was moved to become Cabinet Minister for Information and Guidance — apparently she only heard about it after returning home from dinner, though by that time the newspapers must already have been rolling off the presses. The media highlighted the appointment of the President's wife to a cabinet post. The new Government Chief Whip is Migereko Daudi.

There was an excellent turnout on Tuesday 17 February at the Workshop held at the Kampala Serena's Conference Centre. By the end of the morning, 146 people had registered, most of whom were Members of Parliament. After a formal opening by the High Commissioner and the Speaker, Joan Ryan introduced the first of the workshop topics (all chosen by the Ugandan Parliament), on the role of the Speaker. Ms Ryan described the various roles of the Speaker, focussing on his impartiality in presiding over proceedings in the Chamber and in maintaining order.

The Deputy Speaker Rebecca Kadaga responded before opening up for contributions from the floor, to which Andrew Rosindell and Lord Chidgey added their comments. It was quite striking that the Ugandan Members from all parties could engage in serious discussion about the Speakership, even in the presence of the Speaker himself. Questions and comments covered resources for Opposition parties (Short money), assistance to individual Members, calling Members in debate, the use of Deputies in the Chair and the election to the UK Parliament as a non-party Member of "Mr Speaker seeking re-election".

The evening TV news picked up a remark made by Deputy Speaker Kadaga (also an NRM Member) that she was often criticised by her own side for allowing Opposition Members to intervene too often. The attendance of so many Members on a non-sitting day in one place was a godsend to the media, who carried out several interviews for broadcast in the aftermath of the reshuffle.

The second of the three workshop topics, after a group photograph and a coffee break, was the role of the Whips. Andrew Rosindell, a former Opposition Whip, emphasised that the really "criminal" offence for a Member was to vote against your party without letting your Whip know in advance. (He had to clarify at the concluding press conference the next day that he was not actually demanding imprisonment for MPs who broke that rule.) Mr Rosindell described the role of the Whips in promoting party cohesion and in two-way communication between the leadership and their backbenchers.

It became clear that despite the currency of the term "Chief Whip", there are no junior Whips in Uganda. Furthermore, votes in the Chamber are almost never recorded, so there is little transparency over Members' voting behaviour. Princess Kabakumba, who described herself as now being Government Chief Whip "emeritus", said that it had been a struggle to manage on her own a caucus of 240 MPs.

Opposition Chief Whip Wadri Kassiano said that more was needed in the way of both sticks and carrots to enable Whips to encourage effective behaviour by Members. The Opposition was hampered by the lack of a single agreed position among the various parties. Comment and questions covered how Members balanced national, party and constituency interests in voting on key issues; resources provided for Whips; and links with the party organisation and the payment of election expenses.

In the afternoon we paid a call on Oryem Henry Okello, the Minister of State of International Affairs. Mr Okello had spent 20 years in the UK, living in Isleworth. Soon after his return he had offered some insights, based on his knowledge of British families' shopping habits, to doubt the export prospects for Uganda's giant pineapples and other tropical fruit — only to be rebuked for “talking like a white man”. He was interested in starting an Association of Returnees for children of the diaspora who had lived or studied abroad before coming (back) to Uganda. He was concerned about unemployment leading to disaffection among Uganda's young people, including graduates, as the world's financial crisis deepened. More investment in skills was urgently needed.

Mr Okello thought that the removal of the A level requirement for MPs would be catastrophic; without that barrier, even a local level councillor could easily defeat an incumbent MP just because as a local figure he attended all the funerals. Few graduates had the courage, however, to stand in dangerous Northern constituencies. To his regret there were many in Parliament who had never had a payslip till they were elected. Because of their role in attracting development to their constituencies, MPs needed as a minimum some managerial or PR experience. While Parliament wasted a great deal of time on irrelevant debates, FM radio was vigorously promoting debate as for example in the Saturday morning “chimweza” (?) programmes where the customers of a local bar would be invited to debate the issues of the week.

As the deputy head of the Juba peace talks held in southern Sudan with the LRA rebels, Mr Okello thought the situation had greatly improved as a result of the temporary cessation of hostilities during the talks. The resettlement of people after many years in camps, the breakdown of the extended family, and particular problems in the demarcation of customary land all posed great challenges for the pacification of the North. The opening up of markets in Southern Sudan after the end of the civil war there should help bring prosperity to the North. The decision had been taken on 14 December 2008 to launch a final three-nation military drive to crush Joseph Kony; although it was taking longer than expected, he had spoken to the UDPF military commanders who were confident of success. There had been misinformation about the status of the outstanding ICC warrants; if Kony and his henchmen were taken alive, they could be tried in Uganda's own courts of justice.

The first barrel of Ugandan oil from Tullow's successful exploration was expected to be delivered in 2010. The prospects for finding oil had been talked of since the 1960s, and it was going to be important not to repeat Nigeria's mistakes; Norway offered a successful model of how to invest oil revenues rather than squander them.

On foreign policy, Uganda regarded the UK as its primary ally, but adopted the African Union position on many international issues. Uganda would generally be following the AU line during its two-year term on the UN Security Council. Libya was a friend from the days when Gaddafi had supported President Museveni in the bush war. Indeed, President Museveni was one of the few international leaders to whom Gaddafi would listen. It was hard to overstate the level of respect still accorded by Africans to Robert Mugabe as an elder of the liberation struggle. As in South Africa, the exile and hardships that had been suffered by the current leaders of Uganda perhaps explained why Zimbabwe's plight failed to shock them in the way Western opinion seemed to expect. There were many Ugandans working in Iraq for private security companies, but there had been only one fatality. Ugandans who enlisted in the UK armed forces could earn indefinite leave to remain after four years, but the US Army offered a green card after just three years' service.

Mr Okello concluded with a description of a rural constituency visit in Uganda. Even when it was understood that the purpose of gathering under the mango tree was for the Member to report back on what was going on in Parliament, the assembled company still expected the Member to leave enough cash behind to buy everyone a beer.

The High Commissioner used the opportunity to raise with Mr Okello the question of recognition for Kosovo, as the FCO had asked posts all over the world to do on the anniversary of Kosovo's declaration of independence. By the time we left the Chinese-built Foreign Ministry, it was unfortunately too late to fulfil our planned visit to the Electoral Commission.

On the Tuesday evening there was a good turn out of Ugandan Members and representatives of civil society organisations at the High Commissioner's Reception.

The last of the workshop sessions convened on Wednesday morning with a smaller attendance, but still a very respectable 83 Members and others all told. Lord Chidgey introduced the topic of work of parliamentary committees, drawing upon his Commons experience on the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Chairmen's Panel and on his current membership of the Lords EU Sub-Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. He was followed by Nathan Nandala Mafabi, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Mr Mafabi reported that there were only six Opposition members on a twenty-Member committee and he complained of the Whips' manipulation of Committee memberships. As Chairman he encouraged his Committee to put the principle of accountability before party politics.

Questions covered the scrutiny of draft bills, the use and limitations of private Members' Bills, minority reports, the duration of Committee inquiries and the time allowed for the government to respond.

The PAC is one of four "accountability" committees, all, of which are chaired by Opposition Members. The others are on Local Government Accounts, Commissions & State Enterprises and Government Assurances. This last Committee is patterned after the Lok Sabha example, which has also been adopted in Ghana.

Closing speeches were made by Professor Latigo for the Opposition and Princess Kabakumba, on behalf of the Prime Minister, both of them warmly thanking the High Commission and the visitors from the UK. The Princess commented in passing that she had found Prime Minister's Questions in the UK to be rather rowdy. She said that the Government was committed to follow a holistic approach to improving good governance within limited resources.

Joan Ryan thanked the hosts for their kind words and quoted the late Robin Cook on the need to understand the value of certain parliamentary methods and traditions, while still being prepared to challenge and change them where necessary. The High Commissioner underlined how impressed he had been with the level of engagement by Ugandan Members which augured well for the future of Ugandan parliamentary democracy. While strengthening the role of Parliament was a matter entirely for Ugandans, there would be considerable international interest in the conduct and outcome of the 2011 elections.

At the concluding press conference, Joan Ryan explained that the UK Members were not in Kampala to tell their Ugandan colleagues how to run their Parliament but rather to discuss and compare different approaches. She underlined the importance attached abroad to the 2011 elections. Lord Chidgey said that a common theme had been the need for better resources to assist Members, who in his view would be very well able to meet the challenges that lay ahead. Mr Rosindell emphasised the close historical ties between Commonwealth partners.

On our last afternoon, the British Members went their several ways: Andrew Rosindell (who is the Shadow Minister for Animal Welfare) to the Uganda Wildlife Authority; Lord Chidgey (who sits on the Board of AWEPA European Parliamentarians for Africa) to make contact with their local representative Jeniffer Kwarisiima; and Joan Ryan to visit a school for disadvantaged girls which is twinned with an

Oasis-backed Academy in her own constituency. Joan Ryan, Lord Chidgey and Liam Laurence Smyth took the overnight flight back to Heathrow via Amsterdam, having taken a small detour to see Lake Victoria on the way to Entebbe airport. Andrew Rosindell stayed on for an extra day, to undertake a private visit to a chimpanzee sanctuary.

XX ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

On completion of the Annual Conference in Malaysia, Hon. Samuel John Sitta MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, assumed the duties of President of the Association.

XXI PROGRAMME FOR 2010/2011

1 – 5 February 2010	Conference – subject to be confirmed
1 -11 March	Westminster Seminar
	British Islands and Mediterranean Region Regional Conference
4 – 10 July	Conference – subject to be confirmed
September	CPA Annual Conference
7 July	AGM
8 – 19 November	UK Seminar
February 2011	Conference – subject to be confirmed
March	60 th Westminster Seminar

XXII OBITUARY

The Committee records with regret the deaths during the year of the following members of the branch: Mr Peter Thurnham, Sir Ralph Howell, Sir Adam Butler, Mr Richard Alexander, Hon. Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, Mr John MacDougall MP, Mr Andrew Rowe and Dr Colin Phipps.

XXIII ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CPA ROOM ON WEDNESDAY
2 JULY 2008 AT 1530

Mr Speaker took the chair.

1. Apologies for Absence.

The Secretary recorded all apologies for absence.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (published at the back of the report for 2007)

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Statement from the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee

The Chairman, Mr Hugh Bayley MP, reviewed the activities of the Branch for 2007 and looked ahead to future events and activities.

4. *The Report and Account for the year 2007.*

Rt Hon. Sir John Stanley MP (*Joint Honorary Treasurer*) reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had declined to sign the accounts for 2007, but that this did not invalidate the accounts. Having taken professional advice, the accounts had been signed by two trustees, the Chairman, Mr Hugh Bayley MP, and the Joint Honorary Treasurer, Rt Hon. Sir John Stanley MP and forwarded to Companies House and the Charities Commission.

The report and accounts for the year 2007 were then proposed by Ms Meg Munn MP (*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office*) and seconded by Mr David Lidington MP.

5. *Appointment of Auditors with effect from 1 January 2009.*

The appointment of H W Fisher and Co as auditors from 1 January 2009 was agreed.

6. *Vote of Thanks to the Overseas Branches (which entertained delegations from the United Kingdom during 2007).*

The vote of thanks was proposed by Lord Dholakia and seconded by Sir John Butterfill FRICS MP.

7. *Approval of the revised Rules of the Branch*

The revised Rules of the Branch were approved.

8. *Election of 28 Members to the Executive Committee for the year 2008/9 under the interim Rule 16.*

The election of members to the Executive Committee was conducted during the meeting.

9. *Other Business*

There being no other business, the Speaker closed the meeting at 1607.

XXIV ACCOUNTS FOR 2008/2009

The Branch accounts for 2008/2009 have been audited by H W Fisher & Co. who confirm that they give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Branch at 31 March 2009. They are published on the Branch website, and the original is available for inspection in the Branch office. .