

**COMMONWEALTH CONSORTIUM**

**for**

**EDUCATION**

**REPORT 2010**

**Activities of the Consortium in 2008 and 2009**

**April 2010**

**Commonwealth Consortium for Education**

**7, Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, Clapham, London SW4 7NQ**

***[www.commonwealtheeducation.org](http://www.commonwealtheeducation.org)***

## **FOREWORD**

**By Professor Colin Power AM, Consortium Chair**

## Commonwealth Consortium for Education (CCfE)

### REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2008 and 2009

This Report on the Consortium's activities in 2008 and 2009 follows previous reports for 2001-3, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

#### ***Overview of the biennium***

The biennium covered by this report was made up of two contrasting years for Consortium activities. The first, 2008, could in some ways be regarded as a 'rest year' given that no Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) or Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) took place. In July 2008 the Consortium arranged a two-session workshop within the Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning organised in London by the Commonwealth of Learning. That apart, its main activity during the year involved informing and responding to a Commonwealth Foundation-funded review of Commonwealth civil-society organisations active in the education sector.

In September 2008 the Consortium suffered a grievous loss in the death of one of its staunchest supporters, founder member and officer, Dennis Chisman, who had represented the Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators (CASTME) in the Consortium's councils.

The following year, 2009, involved activity totally different in scale and tempo from 2008. This was a significant year for Commonwealth educational co-operation, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Commonwealth Education Conference in Oxford in July 1959. That 1959 event had inaugurated the series of triennial Conferences of Commonwealth Education Ministers (the 'CCEMs'), launched the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) and approved the establishment of a small Education Liaison Unit in Marlborough House to facilitate co-operation in education between member countries. The anniversary was celebrated at a Conference in Oxford sponsored by the University of Oxford, the Commonwealth Secretariat and a Consortium member, the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC). Our own Secretary and Deputy Chair of CEC, Peter Williams, co-convened the Conference with Dr. Rosemary Preston. Several members of the Consortium, together with the main Commonwealth inter-governmental bodies, participated.

Two months later Commonwealth Education Ministers held their 17<sup>th</sup> Conference (17CCEM) in Kuala Lumpur. They were hosted by the Government of Malaysia from June 15 to 18, 2009. The Consortium and several of its member organisations participated as official observers. Associated with the Conference were four Forums for 'Stakeholders/civil society', Teachers, Vice-Chancellors and Youth and Consortium members were active as participants in these. In two cases member organisations were responsible for organising the forums. Prior to the CCEM on June 12 and 13 the Consortium held its own Third Conference on the theme '*Learning to live together: education for social cohesion*'. It took place at Bangi, just outside Kuala Lumpur, and was organised in co-operation with the National University of Malaysia (UKM). The Consortium's triennial General Meeting was held immediately afterwards.

Participants in the various events in Malaysia received two new Consortium publications *Working together in education: a Commonwealth update* and the revised *Commonwealth Education Directory 2009*. These had been funded by a grant from the Commonwealth Foundation which, under a different programme, also supported some of the participants in the Conference at Bangi. The Foundation also promised new funding for 2009-2010; significantly this included for the first time a small grant to support the Consortium's core expenditure.

In November 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government convened in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The Consortium was present with observer status and organised a workshop session in the Commonwealth People's Forum on Education for Peacebuilding.

## A. Programme

*Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF5), London July 2008.*

PCF5 was organised by the Commonwealth of Learning in partnership with the University of London at the Institute of Education from July 13 to 17 2008.

The Consortium organised a two-session workshop reviewing Commonwealth educational co-operation and its future potential in the context of the approaching 17CCEM and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Commonwealth Education Conference at Oxford in 1959. The first session focussed on the development of higher education and was led by Professor Narciso Matos, Executive Director of the Foundation for Community Development in Mozambique. His participation was enabled by the University of Athabasca which provided funds through the Commonwealth of Learning. The second session took a broader look at the Commonwealth co-operative agendas in education and took the form of a panel chaired by Mark Robinson with two former education ministers - HE Burchell Whiteman, Jamaican Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Chair of the Board of the Commonwealth of Learning, and Mrs Esi Sutherland Addy of the University of Ghana, a former Board member of COL.

*Consortium Conference at Bangi, Malaysia, June 12-13 2009*

The Consortium held its third triennial Conference in Malaysia on June 12 and 13 2009. Following now-established tradition it convened the meeting on the eve of the (17<sup>th</sup>) Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers so facilitating attendance by its members. The Conference was held at the Hotel Equatorial in Bangi-Putrajaya, close to Kuala Lumpur, and was co-sponsored with the National University of Malaysia (*Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM*). There were around 100 participants, of whom approximately three quarters were Malaysians and the remainder from 13 other Commonwealth countries. The UKM team was headed by Prof Shamsul Amri Baharuddin and the Conference co-Secretary (with our own Secretary, Peter Williams) was Dr Zarina Othman. The Commonwealth Foundation contributed to the costs of some of the speaker from Commonwealth developing countries.

In accord with earlier precedents the Consortium chose a theme, in this case *Learning to live together: education for social cohesion*, relevant to the agenda the Ministers would be discussing in the following week. Ministers had before them the 2007 Report of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding (report entitled *Civil paths to peace*) which included observations and recommendations on ways in which education could contribute to creation of more tolerant and harmonious societies. The Consortium was fortunate that a member of the Commonwealth Commission, Dr Kamal Hossain from Bangladesh and his country's former Foreign Minister, was able to join us at the Conference and deliver a keynote address.

The Conference was chaired by Professor Colin Power, Chair of the Commonwealth Consortium for Education, who introduced the theme. The Opening Address was delivered by Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin, Vice Chancellor of UKM. Later plenary addresses were given by Shamsul Amri Baharuddin; Lynn Davies, University of Birmingham; Bernadette Dean, Principal Kinnaird College, Lahore, Pakistan; Sanjay Kumar, Chief Executive, Deshkal Society, India; Tan Sri Khoo Kay Khim, UKM; Linda King, Director, Human Rights and Peace Education, UNESCO, Paris; Thomas Uthup, UN Alliance of Civilisations; and K. S. Nathan, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

For much of the Conference the participants worked in groups to explore different dimensions of the overall theme in greater detail. Different groups addressed education policies for promoting social cohesion and a case study from Sri Lanka; education and social cohesion; inclusion - minorities, women and the disadvantaged; contribution of the arts, museums, sports and the media in fostering social cohesion; the role of teachers and teacher education; faith, culture and education; conflict, violence and learning.

The Conference issued a Statement which was circulated the following week to Ministers of Education attending the 17CCEM and to participants in the Stakeholder Forum prior to their discussions on this theme, and has subsequently been placed on the Consortium's website. This identified a number of specific steps the Commonwealth could take to promote social

cohesion through education and suggested areas where Commonwealth countries could usefully exchange experience.

*17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, Kuala Lumpur, June 15-18 2009*

The Consortium sent a delegation of four to the Ministers of Education Conference: Professor Colin Power, Mark Robinson, Peter Williams and Stephen Blunden. As well as sitting in on the Ministerial discussions, they also attended sessions in the other forum.

Out of 18 full members of the Consortium, 13 were represented in Kuala Lumpur through their own delegations: these were ACLALS, ACU, CAM\*, CAPA\*, CASTME\*, CBC, CCEAM\*, CCLEF\*, CEC\*, CHEC\*, CTG, LECT, LCD\*. Those marked with an asterisk shared a joint stand, with three non-member organisations, under Consortium auspices which they used as a base and from which they distributed literature and answered enquiries from visitors to the Exhibition. Nexus Strategic partnerships generously made this stand available at a concessionary rate. ACU, CTG and LECT were represented in the exhibition hall on their own separate stands.

In its submission to the Ministers' Conference the Consortium made the following proposals for strengthening collaboration in education

- More specificity in Ministerial recommendations at the CCEMs, and more effective high-level monitoring of progress towards targets set. The Commonwealth's formulation of objectives at CCEMs in the past decade, and monitoring of progress between them, have been undistinguished.
- Re-examination of priorities for Commonwealth co-operation, with more attention paid to identifying viable approaches to the challenge of providing education opportunity at secondary and tertiary levels, and in areas of skill development.
- Greater use made of specialist commissions and working groups to identify how education systems in member countries are already responding, and can better respond, to pressing 21<sup>st</sup> century development challenges: of population growth and urbanisation; undue concentrations of power and wealth; climate change and degradation of the environment, with the threat to livelihoods and health; migration and brain drain; social alienation and dispossession; economic and physical insecurity; extremism and conflict.
- In connection with the foregoing an immediate priority is to establish a high-level group to map out how the education sector can contribute to the formulation of Commonwealth strategies to foster Respect and Understanding and the promotion of Commonwealth values.
- Urgent attention is also needed to development of consensus between international agencies and governments, including national donors of development assistance, on finding ways to protect education investment in the current global economic downturn. A Commonwealth working group could usefully make recommendations for appropriate national and international strategies, perhaps revisiting in the light of changed circumstances previous work by the Commonwealth on 'Resources for education and their cost-effective use'.
- Better articulation of the programmes of the different Commonwealth agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental, with those of national governments in pursuit of identified common goals, to combat the tendency for efforts to be fragmented. We see considerable scope for more effective mobilisation of institutional efforts around common themes and goals.
- Widening the base of support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan with more countries offering Scholarships in their tertiary institutions and supporting the Endowment Fund
- Establishment of a central unit to promote the Plan, to identify opportunities for new awards and to mobilise resources for South-south exchange under CSFP.
- Greater encouragement of professional associations and networks in education assisting the creation of direct links between individuals and institutions for the exchange of experience and collaboration in different areas. One useful way to support these initiatives would be to increase the Commonwealth Foundation's capacity to nurture such networks and exchanges.

The Consortium also urged Ministers to take steps to overcome compartmentalisation in education by strengthening the interconnections between levels and forms of education; promoting co-operation between education and other sectors, and working more closely with civil society and the private sector.

*CHOGM and Commonwealth People's Forum, Port of Spain, November 2009.*

#### CHOGM.

As an accredited Commonwealth association, the Consortium was invited to send a Delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. It was represented by the Alternate Chair, Mark Robinson; the Hon Secretary, Peter Williams; and by Steve Blunden, Communications Secretary and Executive Director of Link Community Development. The Consortium made a partial contribution to the costs of Mark Robinson and Peter Williams.

The education constituency was well represented at CHOGM, with several Consortium members accredited in their individual capacities. Delegations attended from ACLALS, CCEAM, CEC, CHEC, CPSU, CYEC, RCS, ROSL: and from CYEC and CBC, which respectively organised the Commonwealth Youth Forum and the Business Forum (see Annex 2 and 3 for list of acronyms).

The Consortium was one of the civil society organisations making a submission to Heads of Government. The document addressed 'Commonwealth Educational Partnerships for an Equitable and Sustainable Future', reflecting the theme chosen by Heads for their discussions. The submission asked Heads of Government in particular to:

- Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Commonwealth Education Conference with a statement recognising the value of Commonwealth educational co-operation.
- Re-affirm the central role that education, training and research play in the quest for equity and sustainability.
- Make long-term commitments to successful Commonwealth education programmes so as to ensure their sustainability in the long term.
- Encourage all member states to contribute at an appropriate level to the CSFP Endowment Fund and within their capacity to offer Commonwealth Scholarships to their Commonwealth partners.
- Request Education Ministers to prepare a report on the development of national and collective education strategies to foster respect, understanding and good citizenship.
- Promote the creation of partnerships between schools, colleges and universities across the Commonwealth and, through professional associations, trades unions and voluntary groups of all kinds.
- Initiate a review, leading to firm proposals for action, of ways in which civil-society bodies, Commonwealth agencies and governments can develop fruitful partnerships in education to benefit all Commonwealth peoples.

The majority of these points was taken up, even if not in all cases in the same precise form as the Consortium made them, in the Heads of Government Port of Spain Communique, which contained five paragraphs on education. CCfE members were pleased that Heads laid stress on "the need to embrace an integrated and holistic vision of education systems" (para 88 of the Communique) which was a focal theme in the Consortium's representations to 17CCEM.

On this occasion, opportunities to influence the Commonwealth People's Forum Statement were far fewer because of the exclusion of education from CPF themes (see below).

Accreditation to CHOGM affords certain benefits, and members of the delegation were able to avail themselves of these in Port of Spain. They include the possibility for one or more members of the Delegation to attend the impressive Opening Ceremony of CHOGM; an opportunity to attend the Press Reception afterwards; and access to the Media Centre .and a comfortable CSO lounge.

Formal contact by civil society organisations with official delegations is restricted to two meetings with Foreign Ministers orchestrated by the Commonwealth Foundation. Mark Robinson and Peter Williams attended the second of these on Saturday November 28.

#### Commonwealth People's Forum

The Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) took place at the Cascadia Hotel in Port of Spain from November 22 to 26, immediately before the Heads of Government Meeting. It was organised by the Commonwealth Foundation and took *Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future* as its theme. Much of the work of the Forum took place through eight theme-based 'assemblies'. To the Consortium's disappointment and dissatisfaction, none of the assemblies was devoted specifically to education, a serious omission in Commonwealth Education's Jubilee Year and given the central role that education plays in socio-political action to advance the Forum's goals. In direct consequence, the Civil Society Statement from Port of Spain is very light on education's potential contribution to equity and sustainability.

The Consortium was nevertheless invited to organise a single workshop session on Education for Peacebuilding in the Conflict and Peacebuilding assembly. It was chaired by Ms Simone de Comarmond, Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation and former Minister of Education of the Seychelles; and two excellent addresses were given by Professor the Hon Rex Nettleford from Jamaica, Vice-Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies and a member (like Dr Kamal Hossain referred to above) of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding; and by Mr Faiz Fayyaz, Executive Director of the Community Motivation and Development Organisation (CMDO) based in Peshawar, Pakistan. The participation of both speakers in the event was made possible by a Commonwealth Foundation grant to the Consortium. (Very sadly, Professor Nettleford died in early 2010).

#### **Commonwealth Education Calendar**

The Commonwealth Education Calendar was issued quarterly in each of the two years. It normally appears in January, April, July and October. It is circulated by email to Consortium members and to about 60 other institutions and individuals: it is also published on the Consortium and some members' websites.

#### **Publications and Website**

In 2006 with the help of a grant from the Commonwealth Foundation the Consortium had produced a series of 12 Commonwealth Education Briefing Notes on different aspects of Commonwealth educational co-operation. In the same year the Consortium also prepared a Commonwealth Education Directory in time for the 16CCEM in Cape Town. In 2008 CCfE applied for a Foundation grant to revise and extend the Briefing Notes and to update the Directory. There was a protracted delay in dealing with the request and in the event approval was given only in April 2009 for a grant of £6,000 (against a request of £9,500) to revise and issue the documents in time for the events due to take place just two months later in Kuala Lumpur. The Foundation also made the stipulation that the Briefing Note material should be brought together between two covers in a single publication.

Given the timetable and a budget covering only 60% of the Consortium's request, it was possible to commission only one new 'Briefing Note', dealing with adult education, from Dr John Oxenham. In the case of the other briefing notes it was a matter of revising and updating previous material.

With the Hon Secretary acting as editor and himself revising five sections of the publication on behalf of the Consortium, the authors of the seven other briefing notes worked speedily and well to meet the deadlines set. LWD Design of Dorking undertook the setting and design of the briefing notes to form an attractive publication "*Working together in education: a Commonwealth update*". The design work for the *Commonwealth Education Directory 2009* was generously undertaken free of charge by Nexus Strategic Partnerships who also identified a printing firm in Malaysia, Vivar, who could produce final copies of both volumes at a reasonable price within only ten days. The Consortium was thus able to complete a seemingly impossible job within budget and on time. Altogether 1500 copies of the Directory and 2000 copies of *Working together* were produced.

A substantial proportion of the total print run was distributed at 17CCEM and at the accompanying Stakeholder and other professional Forums in Kuala Lumpur, but a large number remained for distribution post-CCEM. Major distributions were undertaken at CHOGM and Commonwealth Peoples Forum in Trinidad in November, and at conferences and other events in the UK. At the end of the year a few hundred copies of *Working together* and a smaller number of the *Directory* remained for distribution, after delays with the sea freight consignment from Malaysia to London.

The Consortium's publicity leaflet was also updated and distributed at various meetings during the year.

The website ([www.commonwealtheducation.org](http://www.commonwealtheducation.org)) has been kept up-to-date by posting the Commonwealth Education Calendar every three months, and the material for the 12 Briefing Notes and Directory, as well as other relevant documents.

## **B. Relations with other Commonwealth Bodies**

The Consortium works with all three principal inter-governmental Commonwealth bodies, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth of Learning. They are accorded Special Membership of the Consortium and are represented by observers at meetings of the Executive whenever it is feasible for them to be represented.

### Commonwealth Secretariat

The Education Section of the Social Transformation Programmes Division (STPD) of the Commonwealth Secretariat invited the Consortium to attend planning meetings in London for the Seventeenth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (17CCEM), on occasions when the Malaysian host team were visiting the UK. The Conference took place in Malaysia from June 16 to 18 2009. This was a special occasion, representing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Commonwealth Education Conference in Oxford in July 1959. The Consortium was also invited to participate in a meeting at Stoke Rochford in April 2009 to review the operation of the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol, and was represented by the Hon Secretary. Reciprocally, the Secretariat was represented at the Consortium's Workshop in the PCF 5 in 2008 and at its Conference in Bangi in June 2009 by the Education Section Head, Dr Henry Kaluba. The latter event was also attended by the Director of the Division, Dr Caroline Pontefract, who had succeeded Ms Ann Keeling in that post in 2008.

### Commonwealth Foundation

The Consortium intensified its collaboration with the Commonwealth Foundation. In the Spring of 2008 the Foundation decided to undertake a brief review of its support for Commonwealth associations in education and Dr Victoria teVelde, then Acting (but later confirmed) CPSU Director was commissioned to undertake this task. The Consortium submitted evidence to the review and held a meeting with Dr TeVelde. Her report was broadly supportive of what the Consortium was striving to achieve, but was also candid about its limitations and the challenges it faced.

In the meantime, and in anticipation of its own role in helping to orchestrate the civil-society Stakeholder Forum in KL at the time of 17CCEM, the Foundation appointed Fareena Chaudhury to a new Education – specific post in its Human Development team. Education had previously fallen under a different part of the Foundation's work. Much of her remit had to do with management of the Stakeholder Forum in Kuala Lumpur in the 17CCEM. During the eighteen months that Ms Chaudhury occupied this Foundation slot, the Consortium worked closely with her. This collaboration did not extend, as might have been anticipated, to any offer by the Foundation of partnership or active involvement in planning and managing the Stakeholder Forum, which was organised *for* civil society but not *by* it. While being excluded from the decision-making processes the Consortium did nevertheless contribute regular advice and comment when requested.

Ms Chaudhury's education post later lapsed in the Autumn of 2009, when responsibility for education in the Foundation was transferred back to the Culture and Development section, but without any assigned post.



The Foundation generously gave material assistance to the Consortium, and to the Council for Education in the Commonwealth in the first half of 2009 by providing them with the services of a newly appointed intern, Ms Amy Russell, for a significant portion of her working time between February and June. She assisted with preparation of *Working together in education* and the *Directory*, the CEC's conference in Oxford in April 2009 *Commonwealth educational co-operation: looking ahead at 50* and attended the Conference in Bangi as a member of the organising team.

As described above, the Consortium co-operated with the Foundation in the context of the Commonwealth People's Forum in Trinidad in November 2009, and took main responsibility for the arranging the session on Education for Peacebuilding.

The Consortium was awarded Foundation grants for its programme in PCF5 in 2008, the Bangi Conference in July 2009, and the Workshop in Trinidad in November 2009. The Foundation also funded the revision of the Briefing Notes and Directory;

#### Commonwealth of Learning

Links were further cemented with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). In July 2008 the Consortium organised a two-session programme within the Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning, as reported above, which was addressed by COL's Chair, Hon Burchell Whiteman and attended by Asha Kanwar, the vice-President. COL also kindly provided the revised text for the Consortium's Education Briefing Note on Commonwealth co-operation in distance learning.

#### Commonwealth Civil Society

The Consortium participated in the bi-annual civil-society consultation meetings convened at Marlborough House by the Secretariat and Foundation in both 2008 and 2009. It also participated in the dialogue between civil society and the Committee of the Whole at Marlborough House in October, preparing for the Trinidad CHOGM the following month.

### **C. Membership**

Consortium membership increased from 22 on December 31 2007 to 23 at the end of 2009. This reflected the formal inauguration of the Commonwealth Teachers Group, with a secretariat at the National Union of Teachers in London, and its decision in early 2008 to join the Consortium as a member. The founder and inspiration for the Commonwealth Teachers Group was the General Secretary of the NUT, Steve Sinnott who had played a major part in the Consortium's Conference in 2003 and had also addressed the 2006 Conference. Steve's sudden death in April 2008 came as a profound shock to friends and colleagues. The Consortium was represented at the moving Memorial event a few weeks later.

There were no other membership changes in the biennium, but the Institute of Commonwealth Studies gave notice that from the end of 2009, the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit at the Institute would cease to have separate membership as an Associate member of the Consortium. The Unit had been a member in its own right since CCfE's foundation.

The Consortium continues to welcome eligible organisations to take out full or associate membership.

### **D. Management and Support**

#### ***Dennis Chisman***

Dennis Chisman, our Communications Secretary who had represented CASTME on the Executive Committee, died on 2008 at the age of 80. He suffered in the last few months of his life from oesophageal cancer but had resolutely participated in Consortium activities in the spring and early summer of that year.

Dennis made an immense contribution to the creation and progress of the Consortium from its earliest days in Brisbane and Edinburgh and right up to the time he died. As well as being our Communications Secretary he had served for a time as London Chair of the Consortium: and had devotedly spent a considerable time in the year before he died in straightening out the Consortium's accounts prior to their takeover by ACU.

Dennis had latterly worked as a freelance consultant: earlier in his life he had been a science teacher and had then worked for the British Council. He was very active in the UK Association for Science Education and the International Council of Associations of Science Education. He strenuously championed UNESCO and UK's membership of that organisation, and was for several years Chair of the UK Friends of UNESCO after the Conservative Government withdrew from membership in 1985.

Dennis leaves a widow, Sheila, and was predeceased by their only son. He is greatly missed as a colleague and friend, but remembered with appreciation for his immense contribution to science education and to internationalism. The Consortium was fully represented at Dennis's well-attended Memorial Service in October 2008.

### ***Executive Committee and Officers***

In 2008 the Executive Committee met twice in London, on February 6 at the Association of Commonwealth Universities in Tavistock Square and on September 19 at the Commonwealth Secretariat. In 2009 it met on May 12 at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Mark Robinson in his capacity as Alternate Chair presided over these meetings, standing in for the substantive Chair, Professor Colin Power.

The officers in 2008 had been identified at the General Meeting in Cape Town in December 2006. Professor Colin Power (Commonwealth Association of Science Technology and Mathematics Educators - CASTME) was then re-elected to the Chair. That Meeting also accepted the offers of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council – CHEC - to provide the London-based Alternate Chair (Mark Robinson); of the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC) to provide Secretariat services (Peter Williams as Hon Secretary); of the Association of Commonwealth Universities - ACU - to take over the Treasurership (John Rowett until Spring 2007 and thereafter John Tarrant) from the League for Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers (LECT); and of CASTME to handle communications (Dennis Chisman as Communications Secretary).

Sadly, as reported above, Dennis Chisman died in September 2008. The post of Communications Secretary then remained vacant until the General Meeting in Bangi, Malaysia, in June 2009 when Link Community Development offered to take over the Communications Secretary position (Stephen Blunden). At the same meeting the Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund offered help with general duties where required, and Casmir Chanda was accordingly co-opted to the officers' team.

Professor Tarrant as Consortium Treasurer was assisted with the day-to-day management of the Consortium's financial affairs and accounts first by John Austin and then from March 2008 by Keith Stephenson, the ACU's Director of Finance and Resources.

Maintenance of the Consortium's website during the biennium under review was undertaken under informal contractual arrangements by Chris Davidge.

The Consortium's official mailing address continues to be Commonwealth House, 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, Clapham, London SW4 7NQ. This was formerly the address of the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers. When the League moved to Reading following its merger with the Centre for British Teachers, another tenant in the same Lion Yard building in Clapham, the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (also a Consortium member), kindly took over the task of forwarding the Consortium's incoming mail.

### **Finance**

A financial statement covering 2008 and 2009, and earlier years for comparison, is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

The Consortium's expenditure during 2008 was in line with its income of £828 sourced entirely from subscriptions, and a small surplus of just over £200 was realised. The main expenditure incurred in that year was on the Pan-Commonwealth Forum for Open Learning. No grant monies were received in 2008: an offer of £5,300 from the Commonwealth Foundation to bring developing country contributors to the Forum was received too late to be

used for the purposes stipulated. It was agreed that this sum could be carried over and used for agreed purposes at a later date.

Consortium income in 2009 was £15,915. Of this latter sum £12,700 was from grants; £1,000 was from subscriptions; £1,085 from fees payable for the Bangi Conference; £720 for contributions to the Exhibition stand at the 17CCEM and £405 for publications.

As regards grant income in 2009, the first main element was £3400 of the held-over grant from the previous year. This amount was released to the Consortium as a contribution to the Conference held in Bangi Malaysia on the eve of 17CCEM. Use of these funds was restricted to travel costs of participants from developing country members of the Commonwealth Foundation. The funding was used to cover whole- or part-costs of six participants but could not be used for the Lead Speaker from the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding, a citizen of Bangladesh which is the only major Commonwealth country not a member of the Foundation. Nor was it available for invited specialists from industrialised countries, developing country personnel contracted to UN agencies and for members of the Consortium's management team for the Conference, who also represented it at 17CCEM. Accordingly CCfE drew down its resources by £2300 in relation to the Conference and other events connected with 17CCEM, a sum that would have been much larger but for the generosity of its partner, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, which covered much of the costs of the venues and of the cultural event in Bangi.

A second grant of £6,000 was provided by the Foundation for updating printing and distributing the Commonwealth Education Briefing Notes (collated on this occasion into a single publication) and Commonwealth Education Directory and this grant was virtually all expended.

The Consortium was also awarded a third set of grants by the Foundation for the financial year from July 1 2009 to June 30 2010. They included £1200 grant as assistance with the Consortium's administrative overheads; and contributions of £10,000 for a project relating to Zimbabwe and £2,300 for follow-up activities post-CCEM activity on education for social cohesion. These sums had not yet been made available at December 31 2009, but the Consortium had already committed and spent £3000 against the third of these purposes when it organised the Workshop on Education for Peacebuilding in the Port of Spain Commonwealth People's Forum (expenditure up to about £3,300, as shown in the accounts, was agreed to be reimbursed from the £2,300 and the £1,900 carried over from Bangi).

Expenditure in 2009 totalled £17,597 and was mainly (£10,700) for specific purposes covered by Foundation grants and for supporting the costs of the Consortium representatives managing the Workshops in Malaysia and Trinidad and representing the Consortium at 17CCEM and CHOGM (£3,500). The net outcome of income and expenditure in 2008 and 2009 is that the CCfE's net resources declined by £1460 from £3,958 on December 31 2007 to £2,508 two years later.

Subscription rates in 2009 remained at £50p.a. for full members and £30p.a. for Associates, but it was agreed at the General Meeting that these would be raised to £75 and £50 respectively in 2010.

In 2007 the Consortium had moved its financial administration to the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the arrangement has worked well. The transfer of the Consortium's bank account from the National Westminster Bank to the Unity Trust Bank has proved to be a satisfactory change in terms both of the quality of service received and of the relief from bank charges.

**ANNEX 1 COMMONWEALTH CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATION (CCfE)**

**Statement of Income and Expenditure for 2009 and Earlier Years**

	2009 £	2008 £	2007 £	2006 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions from members and associate members - current year	950.00	828.00	926.05	660.00
- earlier years	250.00	-	320.00	-
Commonwealth Foundation Grants	12,700.00			9,000.00
Briefing Notes	6,000.00			
Conference on education for social cohesion, Bangi Malaysia	3,400.00			
CPF grant	3,300.00			
Fees received for Malaysian Conference	1,085.00			
Contributions to 17CCEM Exhibition Stand	725.00			
Publications sales	405.00			
Personal Contributions to Workshop in Kampala (Power, Williams)		-	1,000.00	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME IN THE YEAR</b>	<b>16,115.00</b>	<b>828.00</b>	2,246.05	9,660.00
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Honorary Secretary's expenses	151.74	59.18	171.25	392.65
Other Officers' expenses	-	-	124.20	13.15
Webmaster's charges	85.25	-	189.63	
CCfE Leaflets – reprints				24.01
Briefing Notes and Directory	5,091.39			
Fees and honoraria	1,500.00		-	5,900.00
Design and Printing	3,591.39		748.57	1,859.98
Freight				70.44
Workshop: Pan Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning, PCF5 2008		546.79		
Malaysia June 2009	7,751.12			
Support for officers managing Conference & attending 17 CCEM	1,400.00			
Bangi Conference June 12 and 13 2009				
Support for admin secretary for Conference	400.00			
Expenditure from CF grant to support developing country speakers	2,851.31			
Costs for other speakers	919.97			
Other Conference fees paid	1,360.00			
Other Conference costs	119.84			
Exhibition Stand at 17CCEM	700.00			
CHOGM 2009 – Trinidad	4,517.38			
Support for Chair & Secretary to attend CPF and CHOGM	1,500.00			
CPF Fees paid for three Foundation sponsored participants	180.00			
CPF costs	2,837.38			
CPF workshop in Kampala November 2007:			2013.83	
Consortium/LINK Conference Cape Town December 2006:				1,689.05
Consortium meetings and general meeting (Cape Town)		-	-	163.66
Bank charges		-	95.19	86.65
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN THE YEAR</b>	<b>17,596.88</b>	<b>605.97</b>	3,342.67	10,401.72
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(1,481.88)</b>	<b>222.03</b>	(1,096.62)	(741.72)
Balance brought forward at 1 January	4,190.03	3,968.00	5,064.62	5,806.34
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD at 31 December</b>	<b>2,708.15</b>	<b>4,190.03</b>	3,968.00	5,064.62
<b>Represented by:</b>				
Cash at bank – Unity Bank	2,141.69	4,190.03	3,523.08	5,064.62
Debtors: Subscriptions	200.00			
Debtors: Fees / Contributions for Malaysian Events	280.00			
Debtors: Commonwealth Foundation Grant	3,300.00			
Debtors: Commonwealth Institute subscription (paid in 2008)		-	30.00	-
Net sum due from Peter Williams (paid in 2008)		-	414.92	-
Creditors: owed to Secretary	(3,213.54)			
	<b>2,708.15</b>	<b>4,190.03</b>	3,968.00	5,064.62

## ANNEX 2

### Consortium Membership in 2009

(18 Members and five Associate Members = 23)

<b>ACS</b>	- Association of Commonwealth Studies	<i>email: island16@sympatico.ca</i>
<b>ACEAB</b>	- Association of Commonwealth Examination and Accreditation Bodies	<i>www.aceab.org</i>
<b>ACLALS</b>	- Association of Commonwealth Literature & Language Studies	<i>www.aclals.org</i>
<b>ACU</b>	- Association of Commonwealth Universities	<i>www.acu.ac.uk</i>
<b>BECM</b>	- British Empire and Commonwealth Museum	<i>www.empiremuseum.co.uk</i>
<b>CAM</b>	- Commonwealth Association of Museums	<i>www.maltwood.uvic.ca/cam/</i>
<b>CAPA</b>	- Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa	<i>capa@kenpoly.ac.ke</i>
<b>CASTME</b>	- Commonwealth Association of Science, Mathematics & Technology Teachers	<i>www.castme.org</i>
<b>CBC+</b>	- Commonwealth Business Council	<i>www.cbcbglobelink.org</i>
<b>CCEAM</b>	- Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management	<i>www.cceam.org</i>
<b>CCLEF</b>	- Commonwealth Countries' League Education Fund	<i>www.ccl-int.org.uk</i>
<b>CEC</b>	- Council for Education in the Commonwealth	<i>www.cecomm.org.uk</i>
<b>CHEC</b>	- Commonwealth Human Ecology Council	<i>www.chec-hq.org</i>
<b>CPSU</b>	- Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit	<i>www.cpsu.org.uk</i>
<b>CRT+</b>	- Commonwealth Relations Trust (of the Nuffield Foundation)	<i>www.nuffieldfoundation.org</i>
<b>CTG</b>	- Commonwealth Teachers Group	<i>email: s.garg@nut.org.uk</i>
<b>CYEC+</b>	- Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council	<i>www.cyec.org.uk</i>
<b>ESU</b>	- The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth	<i>www.esu..org</i>
<b>ICS</b>	- Institute of Commonwealth Studies	<i>www.commonwealth.sas.ac.uk</i>
<b>LCD</b>	- Link Community Development	<i>www.lcd.org.uk</i>
<b>LECT</b>	- League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers	<i>www.lect.org.uk</i>
<b>RCS+</b>	- Royal Commonwealth Society	<i>www.rcsint.org</i>
<b>ROSL+</b>	- Royal Over-Seas League	<i>www.rosl.org.uk</i>

#### Special Members (3)

<b>CF</b>	- Commonwealth Foundation
<b>COL</b>	- Commonwealth of Learning
<b>COMSEC</b>	- Commonwealth Secretariat

## ANNEX 3

### Other acronyms used in text of report

<b>CCEM</b>	- Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers
<b>CCfE</b>	- Commonwealth Consortium for Education
<b>CHOGM</b>	- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
<b>CPF</b>	- Commonwealth People's Forum
<b>CSFP</b>	- Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan
<b>NUT</b>	- National Union of Teachers
<b>PCF5</b>	- Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (London July 13-17 2008)
<b>UK</b>	- United Kingdom
<b>UKM</b>	- <i>Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia</i> (National University of Malaysia)
<b>UN</b>	- United Nations
<b>UNESCO</b>	- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation