

58TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

Colombo, Sri Lanka
07-15 September 2012



NEWS BULLETIN

Issue - No.2

Sunday, 09 September 2012

CWP Steering Committee Sessions Commence

The sessions of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association commenced yesterday with its meeting at Moonstone, Hilton Hotel, Colombo at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting was chaired by the President of CWP, Hon. (Dr.) Sudarshani Fernandopulle, MP, Sri Lanka. Members from Asia, Australia, British Islands and Mediterranean, Canada, Caribbean, Atlantic and Americas, India, Pacific and South-East Asia region participated at the meeting.

PROGRAMME AMENDMENT

Changes in Small Branches Conference

Please note that the Programme for the Small Branches Conference has been changed for today, Sunday 09th and for Monday 10th September 2012. Please see page 3 of this Bulletin for changes for today.

Please see Yesterday's Issue (Issue No.1) of the Bulletin for Monday's Programme.

CWP Members representing each region made presentations pertaining to the current situation in the countries of the region.



CWP Steering Committee
Group Photograph



“Kandyan Dancer”

This colourful orchid is known as the Kandyan Dancer in Sri Lanka (*Oncidium flexuosum*) because of its similarity to the Kandyan Dancer in traditional costume.

The flowers are buttercup yellow with a minimum of chestnut markings in the centre. Usually, each bulb produces more than one inflorescence at a time. High humidity is essential for this plant as it prefers to have its roots in the air, only sufficient roots necessary to keep it on its support come in contact with the mount. When happy, this plant produces a wealth of roots hanging in the air. A dry rest is required in the winter, only giving enough water to prevent the worst of shrivelling to the bulbs. High light is also essential, too much shade and the plant will start to decline, bulbs becoming smaller, as will inflorescences. Flowering takes place around autumn to early winter, having spent most of the summer forming its tall and floriferous spikes. The long lasting flowers are ideal for cutting.



Chamber of the House of Parliament



*Hon. Charles Pyngrope,
Speaker, Meghalaya,
India Union*

The Parliamentary System of Government

Although institutions of Democratic nature have existed in Sri Lanka from ancient times, the Westminster type of Parliamentary Government was introduced to Sri Lanka in 1948 after independence from British rule was achieved.

The post-independence Soulbury Constitution of 1948 provided for a legislature comprising the Governor-General and two Houses, the House of Representatives and the Senate. In 1972 Sri Lanka was declared a Republic.

The Republican Constitution of 1972 while retaining the Cabinet form of Government provided for a unicameral legislature called the National State Assembly and a nominal President. The present Constitution which came into operation in 1978, has created another administrative change when Sri Lanka was made a Democratic Socialist Republic under an Executive President.

Today's Events

Small Branches Conference - at Galadari Ballroom Amended Programme

09.09.2012

09:00 Opening Ceremony

- Introduction by the Small Branches Opening Plenary Chairperson – Hon. Jacqueline Petrusma, MLC (Tasmania)
- Welcome by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa MP, Speaker, Parliament of Sri Lanka & President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
- Welcome by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Executive Committee Chairperson – Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst – (United Kingdom)
- Welcome by Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly (Cayman Islands) Small Branches Member on the Executive Committee
- Welcome by Dr William F. Shija, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- Vote of thanks by Hon. Dr. Patrick Herminie, Speaker of the National Assembly Seychelles

09:45 Group Photograph

- Small Branches
- Executive Committee Members
- Small Branches & Executive Committee Members together

10:15 Refreshment Break

10:30 1st Plenary Session – Ensuring Adequate Parliamentary Scrutiny of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Chairperson | : | Hon. Jacquie Petrusma, MP (Tasmania) |
| Discussion Leaders | : | Senator the Hon. Velma Newton (Barbados) |
| Discussion Leaders | : | Hon. David Agius (Malta) |
| Discussion Leaders | : | Senator Ian Gorst (Jersey) |
| Rapporteur | : | Mr. I.L.A. Jabbar (Sri Lanka) |

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00 2nd Plenary Session – The Impact of the Informal Economy on Economic Diversification in Small States

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Chairperson | : | Hon. Sharon Halford (Falkland Islands) |
| Discussion Leaders | : | Hon. Marlon Penn (British Virgin Islands) |
| Discussion Leaders | : | Deputy Alistair Langlois (Guernsey) |
| Rapporteur | : | Ms. Anna Harris (Jersey) |

15:30 Refreshment Break

15:45 2nd Plenary Session continues

17:00 End of Plenary

CPA Executive Committee Programme at Hilton

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:45 | Executive Committee - Group Photograph |
| | Executive Committee and Small Branches - Group Photograph |
| 10:15 | Refreshment Break |
| | <i>Venue: Hilton - Amethyst Moonstone</i> |
| 10:30 | Meeting of the Executive Committee |
| | <i>Venue: Hilton - Amethyst Moonstone</i> |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Meeting of the Executive Committee - continued |
| 15:30 - 15:45 | Refreshment Break |
| | Executive Committee |
| | <i>Venue: Hilton - Amethyst / Moonstone Lobby</i> |

Spouses' Programme

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 12:00 | Lunch at respective Hotels |
| 14:00 | Leave Hotels for National Museum, Colombo |
| 14:30-16:00 | Visit National Museum |
| 16:00 | Leave National Museum for respective Hotels |
| 16:30 | Arrive at respective Hotels |

For all 3 Groups

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 19:00 | Assemble in Hotel Lobby |
| 19:15 | Depart Hotels for dinner |
| 19:30-21.30 | Dinner - (by invitation) Hosted by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker and President of CPA for the Executive Committee and Spouses <i>Venue: Speaker's Residence</i> |
| 19:30-21.30 | Dinner - (by invitation) Hosted by Hon. (Prof.) G.L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs for CWP Steering Committee, Working Party and Small Branches Delegates and Spouses <i>Venue: Cinnamon Grand – Oak Room</i> |
| 21:30 | Depart for respective Hotels |

Symbol of Parliament's Authority

The "Mace" has remained the symbol of authority of Parliament. The Speaker cannot sit without the Mace. The Speaker enters and leaves the Chamber preceded by the Mace.

While Parliament is in session the Mace is placed by the Serjeant-at-Arms on the bracket provided for the purpose immediately below the table of the Secretary-General of Parliament. Much of the ceremonies connected with parliamentary procedures, practices and privileges have generally been adopted from those followed in the British House of Commons, popularly called the 'Mother of Parliaments'.

*President of CWP,
Hon. (Dr.) Sudarshani Fernandopulle, MP, Sri
Lanka, addressing the meeting.*



CWP Steering Committee Sessions Commence



Today's Weather



Exchange Rates - 07.09.2012

| Currency | LKR Buying | LKR Selling |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dollar (USA) | 130.9100 | 133.8300 |
| Sterling Pound (UK) | 207.9500 | 213.6100 |
| Euro (EU) | 164.4700 | 169.6700 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.3777 | |