



Commonwealth Association of Planners

Connecting planners and planning across the Commonwealth

Newsletter
December 2019



President's Message

It's been a very busy year for Commonwealth Planners working around the world. We've seen legislative change in many countries, very significant examples of high-quality inclusionary planning with culture and equity at the heart of processes, a highly successful awards program and multiple research programs into helping members with the challenges facing them on a daily basis in our profession.

Highlight of recent activities are included below and for more information please follow the links to the various member websites.



World Town Planning Day

The 70th anniversary of World Town Planning Day was celebrated around the world with many of our members holding awards functions and conferences.

CAP Secretary General Clive Harridge joined the Ghana Institute of Planners 50th anniversary conference (and was made a Fellow of the GIP). Huge congratulations to GIP on this substantial anniversary.

A joint message about the importance of planning was released by the Presidents of the Global Planners network including CAP and is available [here](#).



Commonwealth Association of Planners Awards 2019

The second CAP awards were announced on WTPD at the celebrations in Ghana.

Entries were reviewed by the independent judging panel consisting of: Trudi Elliot CBE (Chair), Kristin Agnello, Dr Carol Archer, Viral Desai, Emeritus Professor Cliff Hague OBE and Professor Barbara Norman.



The 2019 awards attracted almost twice the number of entries as last year. There have been entries relating to planning in a wide range of Commonwealth countries including: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Dominica, Ghana, Malaysia, New Zealand, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

The judges were impressed by the breath and quality of this year's entries which covered the full range of commonwealth opportunities and challenges not least those connected to the climate emergency. The shortlist reflected this diversity and the role planning and planners can play in shaping our commonwealth future whilst dealing with today's realities. This year in addition to the overall winner the Judges Highly Commended four entries. All five projects draw upon the sustainable development goals and contribute to their delivery.

The 2019 CAP Award for Outstanding Planning Achievement in the Commonwealth was awarded to the Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Recovery Plan by Waimakariri District Council in New Zealand. Further details are available [here](#)



Outstanding Planning Achievement Award winners from New Zealand

Clive Harridge – Elected Honorary Fellow of the Ghana Institute of Planners (GIP)

Clive Harridge, CAPs Secretary-General has been elected Honorary Fellow of the Ghana Institute of Planners. The award took place during the 50th Anniversary conference of GIP in Accra in November where Clive announced the winners of the 2019 CAP Awards.

On receiving the Fellowship Clive said *“I am hugely proud to receive this Award which is a great honour. As well as being a founder member of CAP, GIP is one of the leading planning associations in Africa and I am privileged to receive this award from such an eminent organisation.”*



Left to right: Clive Harridge and Kwasi Opoku – Immediate Past President of GIP.

Meeting with Her Excellency Maimunah Sharif, Executive Director (ED) UN Habitat.

During the week commencing 9 September CAP worked with CAA and CLGF in hosting meetings with the Executive Director of UN Habitat who was visiting London. The meetings included two roundtable meetings at Canada House – one for civil society organisations (attended by CAP’s Secretary General, Wei Yang and Viral Desai) and the other for Commonwealth High Commissioners (also attended by CAP’s Secretary General).



CAP was also joint host and sponsor for an evening reception for the ED at which RTPi President Ian Tant gave the welcome address. A reception also took place in Edinburgh which was attended by Cliff Hague. The purpose of the visit included helping secure UN Habitat support for Cities and Human settlements to be addressed at CHOGM events and also for UN Habitat and the Commonwealth to discuss closer collaboration in the future through an informal agreement.

The ED’s visit also provided opportunity to engage with Commonwealth High Commissioners to help secure the support of Commonwealth countries for a cities and human settlements focus at CHOGM.

Commonwealth Survey of the Built Environment Professions

Analysis of the responses to the survey of built environment professionals is underway by the International Growth Centre; a collaboration between Oxford University and the London School of Economics. The survey covers Commonwealth planners (CAP), architects (CAA), engineers (CEC) and surveyors (CASLE).

Preliminary results are proposed for release at the UN Habitat World Urban Forum 10, February 2020; with final results for release at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Kigali, June 2020. The project team are hard at work to finalise the outputs for WUF and CHOGM proposed events.

Dumfries House meeting with HRH Prince Charles

CAP's Secretary General and Young Planners Network leader attended meetings with a range of organisations at Dumfries House, Scotland to discuss sustainable urbanisation and human settlements including preparations for CHOGM.

A meeting was also held with HRH Prince Charles who has close interest in urbanisation issues (as reflected in his launch of CAP's rapid urbanisation). The contacts and initiatives discussed at Dumfries House are now being carried forward as we prepare for WUF, CHOGM and beyond.



Prince's Foundation Rapid Urbanisation Toolkit Project.

This project was launched by HRH Prince Charles at CAPs Fiji conference in 2016. CAP is working closely with the Prince's Foundation and others in developing the toolkit. It is being pilot tested in Sierra Leone.



The aim is to finalise the Toolkit in time for CHOGM 2020 to include the development of free online access to the toolkit and related on line planning training modules.

The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation (PWCF) Grant



Working closely with the Prince's Foundation, the Commonwealth Association of Architects and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, CAP has received a grant from PWCF for work on a range of initiatives including: The Rapid Urbanisation Toolkit project, the Surveys of the Built Environment Professions and preparations for CHOGM and CHOGM follow up. The grant also covers the appointment of a Commonwealth Projects Coordinator. This is excellent news and the funding will help enormously in progressing work on these important initiatives.

UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group

CAP is pleased to announce that President Dy Currie has been appointed as Co-Chair of the newly created UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). This group will be a global level consultative body for dialogue between stakeholders and the UN Habitat Secretariat on policy, programmes and operational activities.

The Group consists of a maximum of 18 independent experts with proven experience and expertise, perspectives and knowledge in the UN-Habitat priority areas of work. CAP believes this is an exciting recognition of the respect held for our role and our President.



Left to right: Her Excellency Maimunah Sharif, Executive Director (ED) UN Habitat and Dy Currie, President CAP

The SAGE group meets monthly and is currently focussed on assisting with the preparations for World Urban Forum 2010 in Abu Dhabi in February 2020. The next core focus will be a Stakeholder Engagement strategy implementation plan. Dy Currie represented the SAGE and presented at the Global Observance of World Cities Day organised by UN Habitat World Cities Day in Russia on 31 October (at no cost to CAP).

Fiji Planners Association FiPA

CAP is pleased to announce that the new Fiji Planners Association has formed recently and had a soft launch on World Town Planning Day. The President is Ms Mere Naulumatua and Vice President Mrs Maraia Ubitau.

The Patron of the group is Mr Pita Nacuva who was the first local Director of the Dept of Town and Country Planning after independence in 1970. Congratulations to all involved and CAP looks forward to working with you.

Sustainable Urbanisation Cluster

CAP's Secretary-General Clive Harridge was leader of a call for those Commonwealth organisations with an interest in cities to work together and form a 'cities cluster'. A paper on this prepared by CAP was submitted to the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations in 2018 and there have been various discussions since. There is now agreement in IFCO to the formal establishment of this group under the revised title of 'Sustainable Urbanisation Cluster'. Core members are CAP, Commonwealth Association of Surveyors and Land Economy, Commonwealth Engineers Council, Commonwealth Association of Architects and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

There are also a number of supporting Commonwealth organisations who have an interest in cities. CAP's Secretary-General is currently preparing an updated paper for consultation setting out the terms of reference for the Cluster, future activities and its involvement in CHOGM 2020.

World Urban Forum Abu Dhabi UAE 2020

WUF 2020 will be held in Abu Dhabi from 7-14 February. Significant preparation for hosting events is underway with requests for networking events submitted by CAP & CAA regarding Sustainable Urbanisation and Development in the Commonwealth (focusing on Rwanda), Building Professional Capacity in the Commonwealth and Effective Urban Crisis Response in the Commonwealth.



CAP will also be participating in the HPF meetings and roundtable, Planners for Climate Action activities, GPN proposed Networking event and other sessions as confirmed when the final program is confirmed.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2020

CHOGM will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, in June 2020. The themes of CHOGM will be: Governance & Rule of Law, ICT & Innovation, Youth, Environment, Trade and Business. CAP is working closely with the Commonwealth Association of Architects and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and others to seek opportunity to engage with CHOGM events around a cross cutting theme of Cities and Human Settlements.



A document has been prepared jointly with CAA, CLGF and others on the importance of addressing cities and human settlements at the next CHOGM. We have been in contact with all CAP members asking them to use this document to help them garner their Government's support.

Global Alliance for Urban Crises (GAUC) & UK Built Environment Advisory Group

CAP continues to support the work of both of the above organisations and shares our experiences from Commonwealth Countries and CAP's own work.



Global Planners Network (GPN)

GPN meetings have focussed on preparations for WUF 2020 including submission of a potential Networking event session and a possible declaration including updated activities.



Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF)

The HPF group has been meeting monthly via teleconference with a focus on revising the terms of reference and operating protocols for consideration at the AGM to be convened at WUF 2020.



Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO)

CAP (represented by the Secretary-General Clive Harridge) is an active member of IFCO which brings together civil society organisations from across the Commonwealth. This is an emerging organisation and CAP has been involved in contributing to its terms of reference and its relationship with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation.



It is hoped that by working closer together civil society will be able to have a stronger voice in the Commonwealth and in policy.

Planners for Climate Action (P4CA)

CAP has joined P4CA and there are multiple working groups if members wish to nominate:



- Working group 1: Communication, dissemination, resource mobilization (merging former groups 1 and 4)
- Working group 2: Knowledge & Research
- Working group 3: Education & Capacity Building

This is a UN Habitat coordinated group and will have a presence at WUF 2020. All volunteers would be welcome. Please visit: <https://www.planners4climate.org>

South African Planning Education Research project (SAPER)

This is an ongoing 2.5 years UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)-funded project on South African planning curricula and is a collaboration between universities in UK and South Africa. CAP's Clive Harridge and Cliff Hague are members of the project Sounding Board. Preliminary results are due in early 2020.

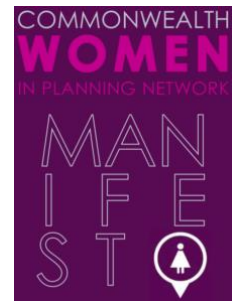


CAP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023

The CAP Strategic Plan has been finalised and adopted by the Executive at the meeting on 7 October 2019.

Commonwealth Women in Planning (WIP) Manifesto

Kristin Agnello, leader the CW Women in Planning Network presented the CW WIP Manifesto at the World Urban Design Summit in April in St Etienne, France. The CW WIP Network, is now drafting a new action plan.



CAP Business Meeting and international Conference 2020

Following a call for submissions CAP is in discussion with the Malaysian Institute of Planners who have submitted a proposal to host CAP's next biennial Business Meeting and Conference in Malaysia in Oct/Nov 2020.

CAP Future Leaders Programme

CAP's Secretary General is in discussion with the organisers of the Welwyn Garden City Centenary celebrations in 2020 over the establishment of a CAP Future Leaders Programme. The Garden City concept has been carried forward in many Commonwealth countries, hence the invitation to CAP to be involved. The Programme which is still in formulation would through competition identify a number of Young Leaders in planning the first such cadre to attend an international summit in October 2020 to coincide with the Centenary.

The initiative has the support of Lord Salisbury who is leading the Centenary events. The challenge now is to identify funding and early discussions on this are taking place with a prospective funder.

CAP Patron activities

CAP Patron Trudi Elliott CBE provided a report on activities and the business meeting considered how to encourage members to participate in blogs to be shared on the website.

Tips for drafting blogs are available [here](#) and blogs will be shared and promoted.



Trudi Elliott CBE, CAP Patron

Caribbean Disaster Recovery Project - Review of National and Local Area Planning Methodologies in the Eastern Caribbean

The final report of the project funded by The Commonwealth Foundation to review the planning responses to the Caribbean hurricanes of 2107 including lessons learnt and tools and mechanisms that could be applied using experiences in other parts of the world has been released. The review of National and Local Area Planning Methodologies in the Eastern Caribbean by Ancil Kirk, Bryce Julyan and Joanna Raynold is available [here](#)

Commonwealth Youth Manifesto

The CW Youth Manifesto on Urbanism was released last year during CHOGM 2018. The CAP YP network is looking for young planners to participate in the network to produce a Young People in Planning Toolkit. Please email Dy at DyanCurrie@gmail.com

Commonwealth Young Planners Network

CAP is also calling for expressions of interest in becoming the Young Planners Network convenor as Viral Desai has advised he is stepping down as convenor at the end of 2019. Viral has been an amazing convenor - he coordinated online training sessions, work with the Young Architects network in the Commonwealth Association of Architects and across the CAP network to draft the Youth Manifesto on Urbanism and has represented CAP at many forums. On behalf of all the planners across the CAP Network, we thank Viral for his hard work and commitment and wish him well for the future.

Anyone interested in taking on the role of Young Planner Convenor should email Dy at DyanCurrie@gmail.com

CAP MEMBER'S NEWS



The BTPS celebrated its 50th anniversary recently and acknowledged the occasion by electing 3 Honorary members in recognition of their outstanding contribution to town planning in the island. The three honourees are two former Chief Town Planners – Luther Bourne and Lionel Nurse – and the specialist planning and environmental lawyer Christine Toppin-Allahar. The presentations to the honourees were made by Hon Marsha Caddle MP, Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment, who thanked them for their outstanding contributions to town planning in Barbados.



Left to right: Christine Toppin-Allahar, Lionel Nurse and Luther Bourne.

Barbados Planning Act

Barbados has enacted the Planning and Development Act 2019 which aims to provide a system that is open, transparent, accountable, inclusive and efficient – fit for purpose in the context of a Small Island Developing State in the twenty first century. The legislation provides for a new Planning and Development Board that will consider complex applications while the majority will be delegated to the Chief Town Planner. A new Appeals Tribunal is also being established. Innovative elements include a “provisional refusal” to allow for extra negotiation and “approval in principle” at the concept stage (replacing the traditional outline consent which is planning permission in law). The system is being opened up, with much more opportunity for public participation and public access to information.



This year CIP, formerly the Town Planning Institute of Canada, celebrates its 100th anniversary. The conference theme, GENERATION, captured the dynamic character of the planning profession and the significant contribution it has made and can continue to make locally, nationally, and globally, as it advances into a second century.

CAP and multiple member officials joined the CIP in celebrating in July with photos and details available at <https://www.cip-icu.ca/>





On the 8-9th November 2019, the Ghana Institute of Planners (GIP) held its 48th Annual General Conference and 50th Anniversary under the theme “GIP @50; **PLANNING FOR GHANA BEYOND AID**”. The objective of this Conference was to celebrate the accomplishments in planning in Ghana and in the sub-region as well as share relevant information and knowledge on the subject matter of “Planning for Ghana beyond aid”. The event also provided an excellent opportunity for participants to reconnect, fraternize and network for professional development.

The AGC was attended by Planners from across the West Africa sub-region as well as from the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CA) secretariat in the UK. The CAP was represented by its Secretary-General, Clive Harridge, whilst those from the sub-region comprised representatives from the Nigeria Institute of Town Planners (NiTIP) and the Gambia. Also present were student Planners from the various Planning Schools in Ghana and delegates from sister professional bodies, including the Ghana Institute of Architects, Ghana Institution of Surveyors and the Ghana Institution of Engineers.

The event was graced by some high-ranking Ghanaian politicians, including, the Minister for Planning (Professor George Gyan Baffour), Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Professor Frimpong Kwabena Boateng) and the Deputy Local Government Minister (Kwasi Adjei-Boaten).



A group picture showing GIP members, invited guest, Snr. Planners & Staff of DoP. KNUST & UDS

He waka eke noa – A canoe which we are all in

NZPI invites planners and allied professionals to its annual conference to be held in Nelson/Whakatū from 31 March - 03 April 2020.

The streams of Values / Voices / Vision will address and consider how planners listen to the many voices and sets of values represented in our increasingly diverse communities throughout New Zealand. How we respect and respond to those multiple voices and values is essential in setting out a vision for the kind of society and environments we wish to plan for.

Join us in Nelson/Whakatū (Te Tau Ihu ō te Waka a Māui - the prow of Māui's waka), to take stock of the wealth of experience and expertise we hold collectively as a profession. Reflect on past and foreseeable future challenges and opportunities planners face in transforming voices and values into bold visions for 2020 and beyond. The role of the planning profession has never been more important.



The Prince of Wales has agreed to be Patron of the Royal Town Planning Institute for a further term. The Prince has been patron of the Institute for many years and his agreement to extending this has been welcomed.

The RTPI has launched a survey of diversity and inclusion in the planning profession. A major pillar of the draft RTPI 2020-2030 Corporate Strategy is to support and promote better representation of our wider community at all levels of the profession. The RTPI has commissioned specialist consultants to help it and the wider profession, understand any barriers that people from diverse and minority groups encounter when considering joining the planning profession, or when seeking to progress their careers. An important part of forming this understanding is through a quick survey, which is open to all our RTPI members and non-members, published today. (The scope of the current study is limited to those presently working within the planning profession).

The winners of the 2019 Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards for Research Excellence were announced at the opening ceremony of the UK - Ireland Planning Research Conference at the University of Liverpool on the 2nd September 2019. The RTPI Awards for Research Excellence recognise and promote high quality, impactful, spatial planning research from RTPI accredited planning schools, members, and planning consultancies around the world.

The RTPI's English regions have thrown their weight behind a national call to give more resources and powers to planning authorities to tackle climate change. The regions – East Midlands, West Midlands, London, North West, Yorkshire, South West, North East, South East and East of England – are a vital part of the RTPI, providing members with training, lectures, social events, newsletters, local information and networking opportunities. They are supporting the RTPI's national Resource Planning for Climate Action campaign, which was launched at the recent RTPI Planning Convention in June 2019.

Support to Sierra Leone planners

Building on the relationship between CAP and NGO One World Link (OWL) in the city of Bo in Sierra Leone around the preparation of the city plan, CAP is supporting OWL in identifying all planners in Sierra Leone (about 15) to form a national planning association.



The Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners (TTSP) hosted the 9th Caribbean Urban Forum in June. CAP's Secretary-General Clive Harridge delivered the opening address to the Conference. The theme was 'Urban Resilience: Disaster and Climate Change Resilient Planning in the Caribbean' which linked with the CAP-led research project.



The Caribbean Urban Forum 2020 will be hosted by Guyana from 10 - 20 June 2020, with the theme of Urbanisation and Urban Policy in the Caribbean. The local organising committee will be chaired by the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Studies of the University of Guyana and supported by local partners including the Guyana Planners Association, Central Housing & Planning Authority and the City Council of Georgetown. CUF 10 will be co-hosted by the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM), supported by regional and international partners.