



Report to Queensland Parliament
on the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference &
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Meetings

Colombo, Sri Lanka

by

Dr Mark Robinson MP

Deputy Speaker
(on behalf of the Queensland delegation)

7 - 15 September 2012

Submitted: 14 October, 2012

Honourable Members

I present this report for the information of the House on the recent travel to Sri Lanka of the Queensland Parliament delegation of myself and Ted Sorenson to participate in the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

Dr Mark Robinson MP
Deputy Speaker

Date: 2012



Purpose of the Travel

The purpose of this travel was to represent the Queensland Parliament at various Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) meetings and events in Sri Lanka, particularly the CPA Executive Committee (CPA Ex Co) meetings and 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

It was an honour to represent the Queensland Parliament at these CPA meetings and events in my capacity as the Deputy Speaker of the Queensland Parliament and on behalf of the Speaker, Fiona Simpson MP.

The CPA Meetings and conference took place from Friday 7th to Saturday 15th September 2012.

The conference was hosted by the General Assembly of the CPA Sri Lanka branch.

Sri Lanka was the only country I visited during this travel apart from transiting through Singapore. My travel itinerary is enclosed at Attachment A.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is an organisation that began in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association. Sri Lanka was one of the earliest members of the CPA and this was the third time that they have hosted the Conference. There were over 650 distinguished delegates, observers and spouses of delegates who attended the Conference from 54 Commonwealth countries.

The program of the 58th Conference in Colombo is at Attachment B.

Accompanying persons

I was accompanied to the conference by fellow member of the Queensland Parliament, Mr Ted Sorensen MP, Deputy Government Whip and Member for Hervey Bay, who attended as an Observer. I was also joined by the two other Australian members of the CPA Executive Committee besides myself, Hon Barry House MLC, President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia and Federal Senator Stephen Parry, Deputy President of the Senate.

Mark Robinson

Benefits obtained from this travel

Attendance at this conference provided me with the opportunity to:

- Represent the Queensland Parliament in commonwealth parliamentary matters to ensure that Queensland and Australia's views receive due consideration
- develop closer ties with MPs in other jurisdictions in Australia and overseas parliaments
- develop a greater understanding of parliamentary practices and contemporary issues in other parliaments
- increase awareness of procedural issues elsewhere relevant to my role as Deputy Speaker of the Queensland Parliament

As the Speaker's representative, I participated in formal dinners for conference delegates hosted by the President and Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament, and represented the Queensland Parliament during various meetings, particularly of the Executive Committee, and attended the conference program.

Attachment A - Travel itinerary

Time Zones (Time indicates local international time)

Time Difference

Sri Lanka 4.5 hours behind Brisbane

Friday 7 September, 2012 Brisbane/Colombo

2.40pm	Depart Brisbane on Singapore Airlines Flight 236
8.50pm	Arrive Singapore
10.45pm	Depart Singapore on Singapore Airlines Flight 468
11.55pm	Arrive Colombo

Thursday 13 September, 2012 Colombo/Brisbane

1.10am	Depart Colombo on Singapore Airlines Flight 469
7.40am	Arrive Singapore
9.50am	Depart Singapore on Singapore Airlines Flight 245
7.30pm	Arrive Brisbane

Attachment B – Conference program

58TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 7th – 15th SEPTEMBER 2012

PROGRAMME

Theme “*Ensuring a Relevant Commonwealth for the Future*”

DAY 1

Friday, 7th September

ALL DAY

Travel Day

DAY 2

Saturday, 8th September

ALL DAY

Arrival of Executive Committee and Small
Branches Conference participants

09:30

Meeting of the CWP Steering Committee

Meeting of the CPA Working Party

10:30

Committee Meetings & Photograph

13:00

Lunch

14:00

Meeting of the CWP Steering Committee - continued

Meeting of the CPA Working Party - continued

15:45-16:00

Refreshments

17:00-18:00

Meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee

19:30-21:30

Dinner - (by invitation)

Jointly hosted by Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, M.P,
Deputy Speaker & Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudharshini
Fernandopulle, M.P, President CWP

DAY 3

Sunday, 9th September

09:00

Official Opening of the 32nd Small Branches
Conference

09:45-10:15

Refreshments - for Small Branches Conference
participants

Refreshments - for Executive Committee

10:15

Small Branches - Group Photograph

Executive Committee - Group Photograph

Executive Committee and Small Branches - Group
Photograph

10:30

Meeting of the Executive Committee

Small Branches Conference

1st Plenary Session

' Ensuring Adequate Parliamentary Scrutiny of Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs '

13:00

Lunch

	Executive Committee /
	Small Branches -
14:00	Meeting of the Executive Committee - continued
	Small Branches Conference - continued
15:30 - 15:45	Refreshments / Executive Committee -
	Small Branches Conference

19:30-21.30	Dinner
	Hosted by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker and President of CPA for the Executive Committee

Ted Sorenson arrives

DAY 4

Monday, 10th September

ALL DAY	Arrival of all Delegates, Observers, Secretaries, Accompanying Persons and Society of Clerks-at-the Table (SOCATT) participants
09:00	Meeting of the Executive Committee
	Small Branches Conference
	2 nd Plenary Session
	' The Impact of the Informal Economy on Economic Diversification in Small States '
10:30-10:45	Refreshments
	Executive Committee / Small Branches Conference
13:00	Lunch
	Executive Committee / Small Branches Conference
14:00	Meeting of the Executive Committee - continued
	Small Branches Conference
	3 rd Plenary Session

	' Strategies to Increase Women's Representation in Parliaments in Small States '
15:30-15:45	Refreshments
	Executive Committee / Small Branches Conference
15:45	Meeting of the Executive Committee - continued
	Small Branches Conference
	4 th Plenary Session
	' Measuring Progress and Well-being beyond GDP in Small States '
19:00-20:30	Cultural Show
	<i>Venue: Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre</i>
20:30-22:00	Dinner
	Welcome Dinner hosted by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker and President of CPA for all Delegates, Observers, Secretaries, Accompanying Persons, Society of Clerks-at-the Table participants and Spouses

EX CO MEETINGS

In the Executive Committee meetings over a number of days, key projects, programs, reports and initiatives were discussed. The Australian Region was actively represented by Stephen Parry, Barry House and I.

The minutes when available will provide a detailed report of all of the issues.

Barry House will write an Australian report for the sake of state jurisdictions not present at Colombo.

Many issues were resolved with much good will and universal agreement.

Much discussion took place in the Working Party, Financial Sub-Committee, Ex Co meetings and elsewhere about the need for stronger audit provisions of the CPA to keep up with its growth – though a recommendation supported by Australian delegates to establish a new audit committee did not receive

sufficient support. Many felt this matter needs to be revisited and I suspect it won't go away until resolved in some form. Further consideration will likely be required at the next Executive Committee meeting which looks like being in April, 2013.

DAY 5

Tuesday, 11th September

07:00-08:00

Breakfast Meeting of Regional-Secretaries

08:45

Arrive at Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre

09:30-10:30

Official Opening of the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference by His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Vice Patron, CPA

Venue: Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre

10:30-11:15

Refreshments

Venue: Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre

Group Photograph

Venue: Main Entrance - Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre

11:15

Depart for BMICH

11:30-13:00

Briefing for Delegates, Observers and Secretaries followed by briefing for Workshop Moderators, Discussion Leaders, Rapporteurs and Session Secretaries

13:00-13:45

Lunch

13:45-14:30

Regional Group Meetings: (*BMICH*)

Africa: *Committee Room-A*

Asia: *Committee Room-C*

Australia: *Committee Room-D*

British Islands and Med: *Committee Room-E*

	Canada:	BCIS
	Caribbean:	BCIS
	India:	<i>Committee Room-B</i>
	Pacific:	BCIS
	South East Asia	<i>Committee Room-F</i>
14:30-15:45	Opening Plenary:	
	Address by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth followed by Question and Answer Session	
	<i>Venue: BMICH - Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre</i>	
15:45-16:00	Refreshments	
	<i>Venue: BMICH - Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre – Lobby</i>	
18:50	Arrive at Parliamentary Complex	
18:50-19:20	Visit Parliamentary Complex	
19:20	Leave Parliamentary Complex for Dinner	
19:30-22:30	Dinner	
	Jointly hosted by Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Leader of the House and Hon. Ranil Wickremasinghe, Leader of the Opposition	
19:30-22:30	Dinner	
	Hosted by Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-	

General of Parliament of Sri Lanka

DAY 6

Wednesday, 12th September

07:20	CWP Participants Assemble in Hotel Lobby
07:30	Depart Hotels for BMICH
08:00-10:45	Business Meeting of CWP and Session ' Is there such a thing as a Women's Agenda in Parliament ? If not, Why not ? If so, What should it be ? '
	<i>Venue: BMICH - Committee Room B</i>
08:45	Society of Clerks at-the-Table participants assemble in Hotel Lobby
09:00	Depart Hotels for BMICH
09:30	Meeting of Society of Clerks at-the-Table <i>Venue: BMICH - BCIS Auditorium</i>
09:40	Delegates assemble in Hotel Lobby
10:00	Delegates depart Hotels for BMICH
10:30-11:00	Refreshments

For Delegates

Venue: Committee Room Lobby

For SOCATT participants

Venue: BCIS Lounge

11:00	Workshops A – D ; A – ' Empowering Future Generations through Access to Health, Education and Vocational Training ' (Host Branch topic) <i>Venue: BMICH - Committee Room A</i> B – ' Should the Commonwealth Establish a Commissioner for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights ? ' <i>Venue: BMICH - Committee Room B</i> C – ' The Politics of Constitution-making, the Role
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of Parliaments in relation to the People ’

Venue: BMICH - Committee Room C

D – ‘ Ensuring adequate Parliamentary Scrutiny of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs ’

(Small Branches topic)

Venue: BMICH - Committee Room D

13:30

Lunch

Venue: BMICH Auditorium

14:30

Workshops E – H ;

E – ‘ The Role of Parliamentarians in Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building ’

Venue: BMICH - Committee Room A

F – ‘ Engaging Political Parties to Improve Gender-responsive Governance ’

(Gender related topic)

Venue: BMICH - Committee Room B

G – ‘ Terrorism – The threat to Democracy, Peace and Security ’

Venue: BMICH - Committee Room C

H – ‘ Tackling Youth Unemployment ’

Venue: BMICH - Committee Room D

14:30

Meeting of the Society of Clerks at-the-Table

Venue: BMICH - BCIS Rooms

Workshop 1: *BCIS Room No.101*

Workshop 2: *BCIS Room No.102*

Workshop 3: *BCIS Room No.105*

Workshop 4: *BCIS Room No.106*

15:45

Refreshments

For Delegates

Venue: Committee Room Lobby

For SOCATT participants

Venue: BCIS Lounge

19:00-21:00

Dinner

Hosted by His Excellency the President for Leaders of Delegations, Executive Committee Members and Spouses

Dinner

Hosted by Hon. (Al Haj) S. Alavi Moulana, Governor of Western Province for all other Delegates, Observers, Secretaries, Accompanying Persons, Society of Clerks-at-the Table participants and Spouses

DAY 7

Thursday, 13th September

ALL DAY

Conference Excursions -

Kandy / Sigiriya / Koggala / Colombo City Tour

Free Evening / High Commission Functions

Mark Robinson returned to Brisbane

DAY 8

Friday, 14th September

08:20

Assemble in Hotel Lobby

08:30

Depart Hotels for BMICH

09:00

General Assembly and Receiving of Plaques

Venue: BMICH - Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre

10:30-10:45

Refreshments

Venue: Lobby Area

12:00

Receiving of Plaques

13:00

Lunch

Venue: BMICH Auditorium

14:00

Final Plenary:

‘ The Role of Social Media in Modern-day Politics ’

Venue: BMICH - Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre

14:00	Meeting of the Society of Clerks at-the-Table <i>Venue: BMICH –Committee Room A</i>
15:45	Refreshments <i>Venue: Lobby Area</i>
16:00	Closing Ceremony <i>Venue: BMICH - Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre</i>
16:30	Meeting of the New Executive Committee <i>Venue: BMICH – Committee Room C</i>
17:00	Close Depart for respective Hotels
19:00	Assemble in Hotel Lobby
19:15	Depart Hotels for Dinner
19:30-21:30	Farewell Dinner Hosted by Hon. D.M Jayaratne, MP, Prime Minister for Delegates, Secretaries, Observers, Accompanying Officers, SOCATT Participants and Spouses

DAY 9

Saturday, 15th September

ALL DAY

Departure of all Delegates, Secretaries, Observers,
Accompanying Officers, SOCATT Participants and
Spouses

Ted Sorenson returned to Queensland



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Colombo, Sri Lanka

9 – 10 September 2012

DRAFT AGENDA

(Document numbered to match agenda item)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Adoption of Agenda E3
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting E4
5. Matters Arising E5
 - i) Membership of the Executive Committee E5(i)
 - ii) Composition of Subcommittees E5(ii)
6. Arrangements for the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Associated Meetings – to Note E6
7. Chairperson's Report E7
8. Secretary-General's Report E8
 - i) Staff-related Matters E8(i)
9. Membership Report E9
10. Reports of the Executive Committee

i)	Annual Report for 2011 (as printed) – to Note	E10(i)
ii)	Interim Report for period 1 January to 30 June 2012	E10(ii)
iii)	Chairperson's Annual Statement and Update	E10(iii)

The Committee breaks into Subcommittees

11.	CPA Working Party Report	Tabled
12.	Strategic Plan	
i)	Review of the Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012	E12(i)
ii)	Draft Strategic Plan 2013 - 2017	E12(ii)
13.	Reports from Subcommittees	Tabled
i)	Planning and Review Subcommittee	E13(i)
ii)	Finance Subcommittee	E13(ii)
14.	Recommendation to the General Assembly on the Appointment of External Auditors	E14
15.	Recommendations from the Executive Committee to the General Assembly	E15
16.	Matters Submitted by Branches	E16
(i)	Gauteng Submission	E16(i)
17.	Elections due at the General Assembly	E17
18.	Future Meetings – to note	E18
19.	Report on visits since April 2012 – to note	Oral
20.	Any Other Business	

CPA Executive Committee

Planning and Review Subcommittee

**Colombo, Sri Lanka
9 – 10 September 2012**

Draft Agenda

		Documents numbered to match Agenda Items
1.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Oral
2.	Adoption of Agenda	PR2
3.	Report of the Last Meeting – for Noting	PR3
4.	Review of Core Programmes and Services	
	(i) Communications	PR4(i)
	(ii) Conferences, Seminars and Workshops	PR4(ii)
5.	CPA Publications	PR5
6.	Programme Planning	
	(i) Report on Programmes and Other Activities since the Last Meeting	PR6(i)
	(ii) Update on Programmes (including Amendments)	PR6(ii)
	(iii) Proposals for New and Potential Programmes	PR6(iii)
7.	Any Other Business	

Attachment D – Statement of travel costs

Description of Travel Costs	Amount	
	Mr M Robinson MP	Mr E Sorensen MP
Airfares (net of CPA contribution)	\$5,277.80	\$6,583.14
Visas/Travel Insurance	\$220.53	\$211.53
Conference Fee (Observer)	n/a	\$3,049.76
Accommodation	\$251.33	\$171.37
Meals/Incidentals	\$777.00	\$777.00
Total	\$6,526.66	\$10,792.80