22th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in Kerala, India from Thursday 24 November to Monday 28 November 2011

1. The purpose of this paper is to ask Members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) to select a Member to attend the above seminar.

Background

2. As previously agreed by the BEC, a notice inviting applications to apply to attend the 22th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in Kerala, India from Thursday 24 November to Monday 28 November 2011 was sent to all Branch Members on 15 September.

3. Three applications have been received. A summary of the applications is attached at Annex A.

4. The CPA Secretariat has advised that this Seminar would be of particular benefit to new parliamentarians. The programme is not yet available, however, it is likely to include sessions on many aspects of parliamentary practise and the role of parliamentarians.

Selection procedure

5. There are no set criteria for selecting candidates. In the past, the Members’ application, previous commitment and interest in CPA activities, party balance, gender balance and other factors have usually been taken into account. These other factors may include how relevant the event is to applicants given their current position, duties and interests which they undertake in the Parliament. The decision by the Executive Committee is final. In the case of a split, the Presiding Officer will make the decision as has happened in the past.

Margaret Neal
Secretary, CPA Scotland Branch
The Scottish Parliament
Email: margaret.neal@scottish.parliament.uk
Hello Margaret

I am very interested in attending the Seminar in Kerala, India. As a new parliamentarian I would find this event particularly useful as I am currently on the Standards Procedures and Public appointments committee who are looking at the review of the Scottish Parliament. I could learn invaluable information on good governance and Parliamentary Practice and Procedures at this Seminar. This seems like very opportune timing for the Seminar given the changes we are considering for our Parliament here in Scotland. I would of course then be able to feed what I have learned into our review here in the Scottish Parliament.

I welcome this opportunity to meet fellow parliamentarians from across the Globe. Thanks for your consideration.

Margaret McDougall MSP
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel 0131 3486425

Dear Ms Neal,

I would like to be considered to attend the Seminar in Kerala in November. I believe that as a new MSP I could learn much from the event. In addition, my long-standing personal and professional interest in south Asia and my knowledge of local languages would assist me greatly in networking and exchanging ideas within and outwith the Seminar.

As a Glasgow city councillor I was instrumental in establishing links between Glasgow and Lahore and also established links with other Commonwealth elected representatives during the successful bid for the Commonwealth Games. I’d embrace the opportunity to strengthen and expand those links and also learn more about parliamentary practices around the Commonwealth.

Kind regards

Hanzala Malik MSP
John Pentland MSP

Dear Margaret

I would like to be considered for this seminar.

In addition to the general benefits of contact with parliamentarians from other legislatures, I believe that given the economic problems which are being faced by countries throughout the world, such contact would be particularly valuable for my work as a member of the finance committee.

I would be keen to meet and compare experiences with others, to explore how they are being affected by global economic turmoil, and how they are addressing the difficult situation in which we found ourselves.

I am sure that the bonds which Commonwealth countries share will contribute to such cooperative and constructive discussion.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes
John