Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Scotland Branch

“Contributing to the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy”

REPORT OF

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

SCOTLAND BRANCH

2009/10
President
Alex Fergusson MSP, Presiding Officer

Vice-Presidents
The Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
Iain Gray MSP

Executive Committee
Ted Brocklebank MSP
Karen Gillon MSP
Jamie Stone MSP
Sandra White MSP

Secretary
Margaret Neal
**About the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)**

The CPA is an association of commonwealth parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

The Association’s mission is to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance.

It seeks to build an informed parliamentary community which responds to the changing needs of parliamentarians and to further co-operation among its Parliaments and Legislatures. This mission is achieved through a Strategic Plan covering the following six areas:

1. Commonwealth fundamental principles;
2. The functional independence of Parliament;
3. Professional development seminars and workshops;
4. Networking through conferences;
5. Technical assistance to individual Parliaments, and
6. Specialist information for a specialist community.

Active CPA Branches now exist in 175 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments, with a total membership of approximately 17,000 Parliamentarians.

**About CPA Scotland Branch**

CPA Scotland Branch celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The Branch has flourished over the years and continues to evolve alongside the Scottish Parliament. Scotland Branch exists to facilitate the needs of Members not only from the Scottish Parliament but also from other Commonwealth legislatures. Since the beginning, the Branch has continued to build on links that have been established over the years and welcomed engagement with new partners.

The Branch has developed close links with the other Branches particularly within the United Kingdom and the British Islands and Mediterranean Region.

The Scottish Parliament’s Corporate Body allocates around £60,000 per annum to CPA Scotland Branch. A decision was taken early on, to concentrate the limited resources on a few countries aligned to the Scottish Parliament’s strategic priority areas, allowing the Branch to make a valuable contribution to shaping the Commonwealth’s perception of Scotland.

Scotland Branch has sought opportunities to add value to links already established between Scotland and other Commonwealth countries. Activities reflect the objectives and priorities of the Scottish Parliament’s wider approach to the world and are consistent with the foreign policy of the United Kingdom.
Wherever possible, CPA Scotland Branch seeks to compliment the work of the Scottish Government and other organisations within Scotland to promote Scotland and her people on the international stage.

Over the past ten years, CPA Scotland Branch has welcomed over 500 delegations from across the Commonwealth, organised and sponsored international conferences and seminars in the Scottish Parliament and arranged for Members to attend CPA conferences and take part in cross party visits to other legislatures.

Annie Lennox appointed as a special envoy to CPA Scotland Branch

Highlights

- Annie Lennox has become a special envoy for CPA Scotland Branch and will again participate in this year’s Festival of Politics.
- Presiding Officer launches parliamentary twinning scheme with Malawi.
- 26 inward visits from across the Commonwealth from June 2009 to June 2010.
- Yvon Vallières, President of the National Assembly of Québec attended the main 10th anniversary event in the Chamber on 1 July.
- 18 Commonwealth Speakers visited the Scottish Parliament during the reporting year.
- The CPA provided funding to enable the Parliamentary Service Commissioners from the National Assembly of Malawi to visit in October to undertake a study visit to examine broadcasting, media and institutional management.
- Delegates of the 4th CPA International Parliamentary Governance Seminar visited the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 November.
- Meeting with Commonwealth Members of the Scottish Consular Corps to mark Commonwealth Day 2010 on Wednesday 10 March.
- Dr William Shija Secretary-General of the CPA visited on 24 March 2010.
- A cross party delegation attended the 41st British Islands and Mediterranean Conference in the Isle of Man in May 2010.
- CPA Scotland Branch to be invited to assist the CPA with technical assistance projects in Malawi, Swaziland and the Gambia.
The Scotland Branch Annual Report 2009/10

Introduction

1. The Branch provides opportunities for Members of the Scottish Parliament to liaise with fellow parliamentarians across the Commonwealth in a number of different forums, including seminars, conferences and parliamentary visits. It also acts as a point of contact within the Scottish Parliament for Commonwealth Members of Parliaments visiting Scotland.

2. The Branch Executive Committee is pleased to report that the Scotland Branch remains dedicated to contributing to the advancement of democracy and good governance and continues to play its part in supporting development work across the world.

3. Through Branch activities Members have the opportunity to promote the increasingly distinct culture and growing maturity of the Scottish Parliament, and its confidence on the international stage.

4. During this year, the Executive Committee has implemented the activity in the forward programme which was agreed at the Branch AGM in June 2008. CPA Scotland Branch strive to maintain existing productive relationships and to build other relationships that allows Members to learn from each other and promote the Scottish Parliament as an institution committed to improving parliamentary democracy.

5. Scotland Branch continues to maintain links with civil society organisations with an interest in the Commonwealth.

6. During the year Branch Members attended CPA conferences and seminars that focused on information technology and climate change.

7. The Branch Executive Committee has met 7 times since the last AGM in June 2009.

8. The political composition within the Scottish Parliament continues to present a major challenge for Members to attend CPA conferences and seminars where we are unable to organise a cross party delegation. The Branch was not represented at the CPA Annual Plenary Conference in October 2009 and other invitations were declined where invitations specified only one delegate could attend.

9. We are delighted to report that we recently announced that musician and campaigner Annie Lennox has become a special envoy for Scotland Branch and will also be involved in this role at this year's Festival of Politics.
10. As part of Annie’s ongoing campaign to tackle HIV/AIDS issues across Africa, her new role as a special envoy to the CPA Scotland Branch will be to report back on these issues to MSPs on a regular basis with a particular focus on Malawi.

11. Annie will also take centre stage at this year’s Festival of Politics to provide an update on developments in her SING Campaign, fighting HIV/AIDS in South Africa and highlight the positive impact SING continues to have on people living with HIV. More information about the role of the special envoy may be obtained from the Branch Secretary.

12. Given the current global financial situation and the pressures on public spending, CPA Scotland Branch, like other organisations funded by the public purse, will see a budget reduction over the next few years. This year, the Branch Executive Committee took the approach to act early and become more pro-active in scrutinising activity and resource planning in line with the Scottish Parliament’s approach to spending reductions. The Branch will continue to look at ways of being flexible, innovative and collaborative in how we work and to focus on the activities which deliver the greatest benefit to Members in pursuance of our objectives.

British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR)

13. Representatives from Scotland Branch attended the Annual General Meeting which was held in the Isle of Man on Thursday 13 May.

14. As reported last year, regional sensitivities and other tensions continue. At the AGM in Guernsey in 2009, a working group was convened to begin a discussion on how governance and internal audit with CPA could be improved. We are pleased to report that at the mid-year meeting of the International Executive Committee, which took place in Swaziland in May, the International Executive Committee agreed that the paper should be discussed at the General Assembly to be held in Nairobi in September 2010. Feelings from those present at that meeting suggest that the proposals to establish and internal audit committee were greeted positively.
Civil Society

15. The Branch’s Forward Plan for 2008-2011 provided scope to raise the knowledge of the Commonwealth among Scots. Engagement with civil society organisations has been maintained informally by the Branch Secretariat.

Inward visits

16. The UK and International Relations Office arranged 26 inward visits from across the Commonwealth. The number of inward visits to the Scottish Parliament in general is down. The number of Commonwealth inward visits has seen a 13% reduction. There are two possible explanations for this. Since July 2009 UKIRO has adopted a more business focussed approach to visits, including visits from the Commonwealth. This has resulted in requests for time with Members and officials being better targeted, with some requests now being provided with the option of a VIP guided tour instead. This method has meant we have been able to provide added value to those delegations that demonstrate the best fit with the Scottish Parliament’s international engagement strategy for inward visits. There is also an emerging trend that the numbers of requests to visit have possibly decreased due to the global economic crisis.

17. We are please to report that whilst the number of visits has decreased slightly, the quality of information to Members and officials has improved, as have the mechanisms for evaluating inward visits which will serve to better inform the Scottish Parliament’s engagement strategy for Session 4, as well as CPA Scotland Branch’s forward programme.

18. The main areas of interest for incoming delegations this year have been to learn more about the Festival of Politics; the Scottish model of dealing with public petitions; institutional management; how the Scottish Parliament engages with the public and how the Scottish Parliament uses IT. These visits ranged from one-day fact finding programmes to week long study visits. See Annex A for the list of all inward visits which does not include committee visits and ministerial visits from the devolved parliaments within the UK.

19. The Branch has received visits from many different countries and jurisdictions within the Commonwealth. These included visits from Australia, Canada, Malawi, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Tanzania, Wales and Westminster.

20. At least 19 Commonwealth Speakers visited the Scottish Parliament during the reporting year including: John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, UK; Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Presiding Officer of the National Assembly of Wales; Alan Ferguson MP,
Deputy President of the Australian Senate; William Hay MLA, Presiding Officer of the Northern Ireland Assembly; Harry Jenkins MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Australia; Jenny Lindell MP, Speaker, of the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria; Charlie Parker MLA, Speaker of the Nova Scotia Legislature; Bob Sneath MLC, President of the Legislative Council of South Australia; Richard Torbay MP, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly; Bruce Atkinson MLC Deputy President of the Legislative Council, Victoria State Parliament and Ms Anna Burke MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Australia.

Harry Jenkins MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Australia with Bill Aitken MSP, James Kelly MSP and Jim Tolson MSP during his visit in July 2009.

21. CPA Scotland Branch contributed to the Scottish Parliament’s 10th anniversary celebrations on 1 July 2009 by inviting Yvon Vallières, President of the National Assembly of Québec to attend the main 10th anniversary event in the Chamber and to join in the family activities following the event. This invitation was appropriate given the continuing relationship with the National Assembly which has remained constant over the past 10 years, with the National Assembly continuing to support key milestones in the Scottish Parliament’s short history.
22. As reported last year, a delegation attending the 4th CPA International Parliamentary Governance Seminar in London also visited the Scottish Parliament. The delegation looked at how devolution works within the UK and the relationship between the 3 tiers of government in Scotland.

23. The following Speakers were members of the delegation: Monjowa Emilia Lifaka MP, Speaker of Cameroon; Abdul Halim Hussain MP, Speaker of Malaysia (Penang); Abdul'Azeez Garba Gafasa MP Speaker of the Kano State Assembly, Nigeria; Muhammad Iqbal Khan Rana MPL, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Pakistan; Nisar Ahmed Khuho, Sindh Assembly, Pakistan; Rosemarie Hilda Husbands-Mathurin MP, Speaker of the Parliament of St Lucia and Rebecca Kadaga MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

24. A relevant inward visit programme was arranged for the delegation to facilitate meetings with Scottish parliamentarians which also complemented the objectives for the Seminar.

Commonwealth Day

25. Commonwealth Day is an annual event that takes place on the second Monday in March, in which all member countries of the Commonwealth celebrate their links with one another.

26. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2010 was “Science, Technology and Society” and the Branch Executive Committee organised a programme which included a Members’ debate on the theme, followed by an informal dinner, hosted by the Presiding Officer, for Consuls of Commonwealth countries.

27. The Branch Executive Committee would like to record their appreciation to Business Managers for re-arranging business to allow this debate to take place.

28. The purpose of the dinner was to allow Members of the Branch Executive Committee to engage informally with the Consuls to ascertain what ideas the group might have to encourage closer working with the Branch. This meeting was very productive with several good ideas emerging from the discussions. For example, the Branch Executive Committee will meet again with this group in September 2011, following the Scottish Parliament’s elections, to inform the Scotland Branch programme of activity for Session 4. Further meetings will be arranged annually to maintain this collaborative working.

29. The Consuls asked members of the Branch Executive Committee to consider establishing an appropriate mechanism for internships within the Scottish Parliament for young people across the Commonwealth. It is early days, however the Branch Secretariat is
working on a paper to try to establish a modest short-term programme which we hope will be approved and launched by March 2011.

Outward visits

30. As well as organising programmes for inward visits, the Branch Members participated in 4 CPA related visits, conferences and seminars this year.

31. In total, 12 Members from the Branch participated in outward visits, providing each with the opportunity to visit parliaments outwith Scotland. Benefits to Members from attending CPA events were wide-ranging and included learning how other Commonwealth legislatures operate and meeting Members from other political parties to discuss how common issues, such as minority and coalition governments, are handled elsewhere.

32. A visit to the Northern Ireland Assembly for the Branch Executive Committee had been arranged for 19 May 2010. The purpose of the visit was to foster closer co-operation between both Branches on areas of mutual interest. Due to volcanic ash all flights were cancelled. This visit has been re-scheduled to take place on 27 September.

33. Whilst the Scottish Parliament may continue to have either minority or coalition governments as the norm, Members who visited Australia and New Zealand were able to engage with Members of Parliament, academics and journalist to discuss different approaches which may be of benefit to the Scottish Parliament, as the Scottish model of democracy evolves in the future.

55th CPA Annual Parliamentary Conference – Arusha, Tanzania

34. The Conference, which took place in October, was attended by over 500 parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth. Unfortunately Scotland Branch was unable to participate in the Conference due to difficulties with parliamentary business. More detailed information concerning this Conference including the programme, supporting papers, transcripts of the principal addresses, and summary reports of the plenary debates and workshops are available at the CPA website http://www.cpahq.org.

41st BIMR Regional Conference – Isle of Man

35. The Regional Conference was hosted by the Isle of Man Branch from 10 to 14 May 2010.

36. The Scottish Parliament was represented by Karen Gillon MSP, Ian McKee MSP, Margaret Mitchell MSP and Mike Pringle MSP.
37. The theme of the Conference was *Technology and Democracy: Successes and Challenges*. The conference format used a mixture of plenary discussion and break out groups to form views and conclusions over the course of the Conference. Discussion focused on the sub-themes of:

- Possibilities
- Rights
- Challenges

38. The official opening ceremony was performed by the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man. Key presentations to inform the work of the Conference were given by senior representatives from Microsoft UK; the UK Information Commissioner; the Isle of Man Data Protection Supervisor and a prominent investigative journalist and former executive editor of Computer Weekly.

39. The Annual General Meeting for BIMR also met as part of the conference programme and dealt with a number of key areas of importance, including:

- future Governance arrangements and the most effective and inclusive way to improve audit and accountability
- methods to reduce costs for future regional and international conferences, and
- activity reports from each branch, which included a full account highlighting the very active role played in 2009-10 from Scotland.

40. A conference report is available from the Branch Secretary.

**CPA Parliamentary Seminars, Study Groups and other events**

41. Sarah Boyack MSP and Patrick Harvie MSP attended the International Parliamentary Conference on Climate Change: Countdown to Copenhagen (IPCCC) which was held at Westminster in London, from 5 to 11 July 2009.

42. The aim of the conference was to better equip parliamentarians to hold their executives to account on effective and just responses to climate change, in the run-up to Copenhagen and beyond. For further information please contact the Branch Secretary.
Cross Party visit to Australia and New Zealand

43. As reported last year, a cross party delegation was selected to visit Australia and New Zealand in October 2009. The visit was initiated by invitations from the Speaker of the Parliament of New Zealand and from both Speakers of the Parliament of Australia, inviting the Presiding Officer to visit. This was the first time since the establishment of the Scottish Parliament that a cross party delegation, led by the Presiding Officer, has visited Australia and New Zealand. Given that 2009 was the year of Homecoming and the 10th anniversary of devolution, this invitation came at an opportune time and provided the delegation with the opportunity to promote not only the Parliament but Scotland and its people to communities in both Australia and New Zealand.

![Image](image.jpg)

Alex Fergusson MSP presents the Speaker of New Zealand Parliament, Lockwood Smith (left) with a kilt made from the Scottish Parliament official tartan.

44. The delegation visited the Parliament’s of Western Australia, Victoria, Canberra and New Zealand. This particular visit programme entailed travelling across vast distances over a 2 week period. Nevertheless, the delegation was able to attend over 80 meetings and events which included visits to 4 universities to deliver lectures and participate in round table discussions with students and academics. In total the delegation had the opportunity to meet with around 80 parliamentarians and took part in a number of media interviews which were either published or broadcast during the visit.
Members of the delegation photographed with HE George Fergusson, British High Commissioner to New Zealand \textit{(right)} and his wife \textit{(Centre)}

45. The delegation engaged in detailed discussions with parliamentarians, academics and journalists about the various ways in which coalition and minority governments operated in these jurisdictions. The delegation also promoted the Festival of Politics during the visits and learned how other parliaments engage with the public and promote traditional languages.

\textit{Alan Ferguson, Deputy President of the Australian Senate welcomes Alex Fergusson MSP to Canberra}
46. Overall the delegation felt that the visit had been extremely successful and that the objectives had been met. The full report of this visit can be accessed by following the attached link: http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/cpa/documents/FinalReport.doc.

Members of the delegation and Members of the Returned and Services League of Western Australia State Branch following a wreath laying ceremony at The State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park, Perth.
Engagement with the National Assembly of Malawi

47. As reported last year, the relationship between Scotland and Malawi continues to grow and there are signs that the relationship at parliamentary level is gaining momentum and growing stronger.

48. In August 2009, Matilda Katapola, Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly of Malawi visited to meet with officials from across the Parliament to garner information on a wide range of topics to develop and inform future corporate policies. During the visit the Clerk attended 15 meetings and also met with Michael Matheson MSP.

Parliamentary Service Commission

49. This visit was followed by a visit of the Parliamentary Service Commission in October 2009. The key aim of the visit was to support the development of a broadcasting unit within the Assembly’s new parliamentary building by sharing Scottish Parliament experience of establishing and developing its own broadcasting unit. In addition, and in line with the objectives of the CPA Scotland Branch, a wider remit was to include scrutiny of government, public engagement, and good institutional management and this was incorporated in the visit programme.

50. This was a productive visit as it fulfilled the support agreed in the CPA’s Technical Assistance Programme, in that the Parliamentary Service Commission met the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body and discussed areas of best practice in terms of institutional management. This will assist the new Commissioners to develop corporate policies for the National Assembly.

51. As 3 of the 5 Parliamentary Commissioners were first-time Members, the delegation had various discussions about best practice in a range of areas to encourage growing a modern participative democracy. Parliamentary scrutiny was a key issue throughout the discussions. There was also considerable interest in the innovative methods of engagement adopted by the Scottish Parliament to better involve the people in the parliamentary process and the role of the MSP at constituency level. These are just a few examples of the discussions which took place.

52. Ideas for future collaboration were exchanged and incorporated into CPA Scotland Branch objectives for the visit to Malawi which took place in February 2010 (and will form the basis of engagement and technical assistance to Malawi for the ensuing year). The Scotland Branch Secretary was asked to provide advice and support to CPA counterparts in Malawi, which will help to play a key role is assisting future engagement.
CPA Scotland Branch visit to Malawi

53. Karen Gillon MSP and Michael Matheson MSP visited Malawi under the auspices of CPA Scotland Branch from 13 to 21 February. This visit was particularly productive and on return the delegation reported back on the success of fulfilling the objectives set out for the programme.

54. A full schedule was arranged involving more than 1200 miles of road travel. A joint workshop with Fiona Hyslop MSP, Minister for Culture and External Affairs took place on the Changing Role of Parliamentarians with over 40 Malawian MPs attending. Regional workshops on Effective Use of the Media took place in the 3 main cities of Malawi with 23 Members attending the workshops in Blantyre, 15 Members in Lilongwe and 10 Members in Mzuzu. Feedback from attendees has been positive and will inform CPA Scotland Branch thinking on the way forward. The Secretariat is currently developing a second technical assistance project in collaboration with the National Assembly and the CPA Secretariat.

55. Please see below for more information about the technical assistance project.

Karen Gillon MSP and Michael Matheson MSP visit Open Arms Orphanage, Mangochi. Also pictured from left to right – Neville Bevis, Christina Christina Chiwoko MP and Ralph Jooma MP.
56. The delegation attended a meeting of the Committee of Governance which took place during the visit. The Committee on Governance comprises all development partners in Malawi providing support to governance. The National Assembly’s strategic plan for 2010-2014 is being developed with support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is due for completion. This strategic plan should form the basis of all international support for the National Assembly. Donors are planning to align behind the activities in this plan to coordinate support better. CPA Scotland Branch are partners and not donors as such, however every effort will be made to ensure parliamentary strengthening work is not duplicated.

57. The delegation also finalised plans to establish a mechanism to ‘twin’ Members. This has resulted in the Pilot Parliamentary Pairing Initiative (PPPI), launched by the Presiding Officer, as Branch President, on 14 April. This initiative aims to strengthen existing links and create new links between Malawian Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament by introducing a pilot scheme to develop a model for pairing parliamentarians which could be adopted throughout other Commonwealth legislatures. The initiative involves 10 members, drawn from across the regions in Malawi and from across the political parties being paired with parliamentarians from CPA Scotland Branch. More information about the PPPI may be obtained from the Branch Secretary.

58. The delegation took the opportunity to visit some constituencies in Blantyre, Mangochi, Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba, particularly in areas where there were established links with Scotland.

59. As reported last year, the CPA International Executive Committee agreed that £16,000 unspent monies from the technical assistance project could be used to assist the National Assembly understand how IT could be used to enhance the work of parliament. Subsequently the remit was extended to include media and communication. This funding was used to enable the Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission to undertake a study visit to the Scottish Parliament in October 2009 and contribute to the costs of the outward visit to Malawi in February 2010. The report of the February visit will be posted onto the CPA Scotland Branch website. In the meantime further information on both inward and outward visits is available from the Branch Secretary.

60. The Presiding Officer received an invitation to attend the Opening Ceremony of the new parliament building in Lilongwe which opened on 21 May 2010. Due to diary commitments the Presiding Officer, with regret, was unable to accept the invitation.
61. Over the past few months new opportunities to maximise mutual benefits for both legislatures have arisen. The Branch Secretariat is currently developing a sub-Saharan Africa strategy to pull together a number of strands and potential new opportunities, such as those mentioned further below. This will help to inform activity within a focussed and evidence based international strategy for Session 4, for this part of the world.

62. Active discussions with British agencies and public bodies continue to ensure that the Scottish Parliament plays a key role in parliamentary strengthening in Malawi in the future. Members also continue to raise the profile of Malawi through the Cross Party Group on Malawi and during parliamentary debates.

Technical Assistance

National Assembly of Malawi

63. The Technical Assistance Project (TAP) with the National Assembly of Malawi has, since February 2007, provided several opportunities for collaboration between Scotland and Malawi by politicians and officials. Not all of these have been funded in full or in part by the budget associated with the TAP, but have been conducted under its auspices. In addition, the Scottish Parliament has committed significant staff resources to support the work of the TAP. Alongside the specific pieces of work, there has been regular informal contact and discussion between the two institutions as a direct result of the TAP. Over the last three years, the two institutions have built up a solid understanding of the political landscapes and working practices of each other.

64. The objectives of the formal pieces of work conducted under the TAP have ranged from general information gathering (study visit by Malawi committee clerks) to specific, focussed pieces of work (the Standing Orders projects). In each case, the aims of the work have been achieved to the benefit of both parties and to the expressed satisfaction of those involved. The benefits received by the National Assembly of Malawi and the regard in which the support provided by the Scottish Parliament is held is borne out by the request for an MSP to take the place of the CPA Secretary General in orientation sessions for newly elected National Assembly MPs in June 2009. There was also a request a month earlier for a senior clerk from the Scottish Parliament to design and take part in workshops for Malawi clerks. At the conclusion of that piece of work, Mrs Katopola expressed the strong desire that the support provided by the Scottish Parliament continues in the future.

65. Although the TAP was designed to provided technical support and assistance to the National Assembly of Malawi, the benefits have not all been one way. Both politicians and officials at the Scottish
Parliament have benefited from exposure to, and joint-working with, politicians and officials operating in a different political and economic environment. Engagement with Malawi has provided a direct international perspective for Members and staff of the Scottish Parliament and has allowed them to share knowledge and experience gained since the establishment of the Parliament. Multi-party democracy in Malawi pre-dates devolution in the United Kingdom by a few years and both parliamentary institutions are still young and learning as they mature. The TAP has provided a mechanism for direct contact between two organisations at an early time in their existence and has contributed positively to the learning processes of both.

Fiona Hyslop, Minister for External Relations with Karen Gillon MSP and Michael Matheson MSP at the Changing Role of Parliamentarians workshop in Lilongwe – February 2010.

Parliament of Swaziland

66. The CPA received a request for technical assistance from the Parliament of Swaziland. It has undergone a major restructuring exercise and needs to strengthen its core legislative, representative and oversight roles. A proposal for a one-year CPA Technical Assistance Programme for the Parliament of Swaziland has recently been agreed by the International Executive Committee. The CPA Scotland Branch has expressed interest in assisting in the delivery of this programme and it is expected that Members of CPA Scotland
Branch and/or officials will be invited to assist the CPA deliver technical assistance over the course of the next reporting year.

National Assembly of The Gambia

67. The CPA also approved a request for assistance from the Speaker of the National Assembly of The Gambia. The request relates to ‘The Strategic Development and Investment Plan of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia 2009-2014’ which is currently funded under the auspices of the UNDP until 2011.

68. Similarly as with Swaziland, the CPA Scotland Branch has also expressed interest in assisting in the delivery of this programme.

Visit by the Parliamentary Service Commission in October 2009

**Future Commonwealth engagement**

69. As previously mentioned it is hoped that the detail for a second Technical Assistance Project for the National Assembly of Malawi will be agreed by Autumn 2010.

70. The CPA Scotland Branch has expressed interest in assisting in the delivery of technical assistance programmes to The Gambia and Swaziland. Members of CPA Scotland Branch and/or officials will be invited to apply in the usual way to assist the CPA with delivery of these projects should the Branch be invited to participate.

71. Annie Lennox will appear at the Festival of Politics this year in her own session entitled “Power to the People”.
72. CPA Scotland Branch have also been allocated a session on Thursday 19 August entitled *Scotland and Malawi – For the Common Good*. This session aims to discuss, from both Scottish and Malawian perspectives, what difference parliamentary involvement has made in the past 5 years and, looking forward, what role there is for parliamentarians to ensure that this relationship is sustained in the future. Dr William Shija, Secretary-General of the CPA has accepted an invitation to participate. The Speaker of the National Assembly has also been invited and we are awaiting confirmation about his attendance.

73. There is doubt over whether CPA Scotland will send a delegation to attend the CPA Annual Plenary in Nairobi in September this year. The costs involved are higher than expected and given the difficulties encountered around parliamentary business in 2009 and the current financial climate, the current feeling is that Scotland Branch may not directly participate.

74. The Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Scotland Branch has agreed that a cross party delegation should not visit India in October recess 2010. Any decisions on a future cross party visit to India will be re-visited at the beginning of Session 4.

75. It is likely that the Presiding Officer and Annie Lennox will visit Malawi during February recess in 2011.

**Contact details**

76. For further information on any of the aspects contained within this report please contact:

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Branch Finances – 2009/10

77. The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) agreed that the Branch should have a budget of £60,000 per annum, with the proviso that if the Branch required any extra funding (i.e. to host a regional conference) then SPCB agreement could be sought on an ad-hoc basis. On the same understanding, any monies left at the end of the financial year are automatically returned to the SPCB. The SPCB increased the budget to £62,000 for the 2009/10 to cover anticipated additional expenditure for Year of Homecoming.

78. The annual budget of the Branch is expected to cover the annual membership fees of the CPA; the Branch’s attendance at the Regional and Annual Conferences; hospitality given to visiting CPA parliamentarians; outward visits by the Branch; and any other ad-hoc activities. The annual budget runs from 1 April to 31 March.

79. As the Scotland Branch is wholly funded by the SPCB the accounts are audited along with the Corporate Body’s accounts. The Branch Accounts are attached at Annex B.

80. We are pleased to report that the visit to Australia and New Zealand came well within budget.

81. Savings were accumulated from withdrawal from the CPA Annual Plenary Conference in Tanzania and from the original planned expenditure on the Australian/New Zealand programme. These savings, together with a rolled over contribution of £2,150 from the CPA from the previous TAP, provided an opportunity for Scotland Branch to organise a visit to Malawi in February 2010.

82. The estimated underspend of £233 is negligible and represents 0.37% of the budget.

83. The annual budget for the Branch is set for 2010-11, however reductions in allocations are anticipated, in line with the approach generally being adopted across the Scottish Parliament, for future years.
Commonwealth Inward Visits Organised by UK and International Relations Office (UKIRO) from 24 June 2008 to 16 June 2010

Inward Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Visitor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 June</td>
<td>South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ambassadors</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>Hon. Yvon Vallières Speaker of the National Assembly of Québec</td>
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<td>2 July</td>
<td>The Hon. Anna Burke MP, Deputy of the House of Representatives, Australia</td>
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<td>10 July</td>
<td>Bruce Atkinson MLC. Deputy President of Legislative Council, Victorian State Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 July</td>
<td>Malcolm Peacock, Clerk of the Legislative Council and Clerk of the Parliaments Parliament of Western Australia</td>
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<td>13 July</td>
<td>Mr Harry Jenkins MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Australia</td>
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<td>15 July</td>
<td>Dr Stephen Redenbach, Assistant Clerk Committees Department of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria</td>
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<td>20 July</td>
<td>Marie Andrews MP, Parliament of New South Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>The Hon. George Richard Torbay, MP, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5 August</td>
<td>Visit by officials - Sergeant-at-Arms of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly (ACTLA), Max Kiermaier, and, Paul Collett from the South Australian House of Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 August</td>
<td>Noreen Hay, MP, Parliament of New South Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 September</td>
<td>Charlie Parker MLA, Speaker, The Nova Scotia Legislature, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11 September</td>
<td>Ms Matilda Katapola, Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly of Malawi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-24 September</td>
<td>Jenny Lindell MP, Speaker and Ray Purdey, Clerk, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-30 October</td>
<td>Claude Boucher, Deputy High Commissioner of Canada to the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 November</td>
<td>Alan Thompson, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Service, Parliament House, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 November</td>
<td>Hon Bob Sneath MLC, President of the Legislative Council, South Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 November</td>
<td>Delegation from the Australian Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 November</td>
<td>Mr Anil Kumar Anand, Consul General of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 November</td>
<td>Claude Boucher, Deputy High Commissioner of Canada to the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19 November</td>
<td>Delegates from the CPA International Parliamentary Governance Seminar Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Delegation of Parliamentarians from the Parliament of Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Dr William Shija, Secretary General of the CPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>Judy Spence MP Chair of the Committee System Review Committee and Leader of the House, Queensland Parliament, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>HE Derek Leask, High Commissioner of New Zealand to the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>Senator Alan Ferguson, Deputy President The Senate, Parliament of Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Estimated Report of Branch Accounts as at 31 March 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Income (£)</th>
<th>Expenditure (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2009</td>
<td>Annual funding from SCPB</td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18 May</td>
<td>Attendance at 41st BIMR Annual Conference 2008, Guernsey</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 June</td>
<td>MP Orientation Seminar, Malawi</td>
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<td>238</td>
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<td>5-11 July</td>
<td>International Parliamentary Conference on Climate Change Westminster London</td>
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<td>2,328</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>Cancellation costs for flights to Tanzania</td>
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<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-24 October</td>
<td>CPA Scotland Branch cross party delegation visit to Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td>34,901</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitality for visiting CPA delegations/parliamentarians</td>
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<td>8,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2010</td>
<td>Annual subscriptions</td>
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<td>7,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-22 February</td>
<td>Cross Party visit to Malawi</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>Commonwealth Day 2010</td>
<td></td>
<td>561</td>
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<td><strong>Sub total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>62,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>61,767</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Under spend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>62,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>