

A Commonwealth of opportunity!

- ★ 1.8 billion people
- ★ 53 member states
- ★ 79 territories
- ★ 20% of global trade

Antigua & Barbuda
Australia
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belize
Botswana
Brunei Darussalam
Cameroon
Canada
Cyprus
Dominica
Fiji Islands
Gambia
Ghana
Grenada
Guyana
India
Jamaica
Kenya
Kiribati
Lesotho
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Malta
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Nauru
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
St Kitts & Nevis
St Lucia
St Vincent & the Grenadines
Samoa
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Kingdom
United Republic of Tanzania
Vanuatu
Zambia



Nexus

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The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is an association of 53 countries.

Although its 1.8 billion citizens – about 30% of the world's population – are spread across all continents, the sense of belonging to a 'family' of nations and the shared use of the English language have created a fertile environment in which partnership and exchange are the norm, and success stories readily shared.

Commonwealth Secretariat

COMSEC is the principal executive agency of the 53 Commonwealth member governments, responsible for convening policy-makers to address issues of pan-Commonwealth significance, and for forging intra-Commonwealth and multi-stakeholder partnerships. COMSEC is renowned in the international community for effective action rather than effective self-promotion, so many of its achievements, although not 'household names', have nonetheless changed for the better the lives of millions of its citizens. These include:

- Groundbreaking work on vulnerable and small states, enabling them to have a voice at the WTO.
- Leading the international campaign against apartheid.
- Observing elections in member countries.
- Developing the world's leading software for managing and tracking sovereign debt.
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building expertise to member governments in many areas, including: basic education; public finance and administration; sustainable development; achieving Millennium Development Goals; national debt management

CHOGM

Every two years, Commonwealth leaders meet for a few days to discuss global and Commonwealth issues, and to agree collective policies and initiatives. These summits are called Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (or CHOGMs for short), and provide a unique forum for consultation at the highest level of government.

The Commonwealth Yearbook 2009 will be distributed at the next CHOGM, which will be held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. In the words of Prime Minister Patrick Manning, *The Commonwealth Yearbook* and **Commonwealth of Nations website** (www.commonwealth-of-nations.org) are

'A window of opportunity to all member states of the Commonwealth and to the wider world'

The Commonwealth Yearbook 2009

Part of the process of 'transforming Commonwealth Societies' involves promoting Commonwealth member countries (and in particular their governments, institutions and businesses) to the international community. The Commonwealth Yearbook is the official instrument by which this is achieved.

As the flagship annual publication of the Commonwealth Secretariat for more than three decades, The Commonwealth Yearbook has become the ultimate reference guide to the modern Commonwealth, essential reading for government and business leaders worldwide.

The 2008 edition has been fully updated and includes...

...the evolution and constituency of the modern Commonwealth...

...full profiles on all key organisations...

...important ministerial communiqués and declarations...

...53 detailed country reports.





The first Commonwealth website dedicated to promoting the governments, businesses, institutions and cultures of the 53 member countries.

The Commonwealth of Nations enjoys the endorsement and input of over 45 Presidents and Prime Ministers.

Which means that as one of our partners, your message will enjoy the very finest company!

