



News release.....

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e-journal highlights latest research in local government

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) today launched a new publication to lead debate and research on topical issues in local government from across the world.

The *Commonwealth e-Journal of Local Governance* brings together the perspectives of researchers and local government practitioners, and disseminate information, ideas and good practice as widely as possible across the Commonwealth. It focuses on two main themes:

- Improving local governance
- Local government as an agent of decentralised development.

The first issue, published today, includes:

- **A new model for local-central relations empowering local government in New Zealand**, by Christine Cheyne, Massey University, New Zealand
- **The role of local government in addressing neighbourhood disadvantage**, by Jason Prior, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- **Neighbourhood governance and local government reform in England**, by Harriet Churchill, University of Manchester, UK
- **Local government in the South Pacific islands**, by Graham Hassall and Feue Tipu, University of the South Pacific, Fiji Islands
- **Aid and local government**, by Philip Amis, University of Birmingham, UK

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright, CLGF Board members Graham Sansom (the journal's editor), and Bishnu Ragoonath, University of the West Indies launched the new publication at Marlborough House, London, hosted by the Commonwealth to an invited audience of leading academics and others involved in local government policy-making from around the world including Canada, Fiji Islands, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK.

The *Commonwealth e-Journal of Local Governance* journal is co-produced by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and the UTS Centre for Local Government (University of Technology, Sydney, Australia). It is published on the UTS E-Press website.

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright said:

"CLGF believes that sharing experience, skills and ideas internationally is hugely beneficial to those who are involved in local government or in making local government policy. We encourage knowledge-sharing through conferences, seminars and events, through partnership projects and technical support and via its publications.

"I am delighted that we are today publishing the first issues of what will be an important contribution to local government thinking internationally. We are grateful to the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) for making its e-press facility available for the journal, and to members of the editorial board and to the contributors to this first edition."

CLGF Board member Graham Sansom, Director of the UTS Centre for Local Government, said:

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"The aim of the journal is to bring together the perspectives of both researchers and practitioners to disseminate ideas, information and good practice. It contains a wide range of contributions including peer-reviewed research papers, scholarly commentaries on particular areas of research as well as some practice notes and news items. I hope that it will become essential reading for anyone involved in local government policy development."

The journal is available at <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/cjlg> and accessible through the CLGF website.

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For further information:

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Note to editors:

1 The launch of the Commonwealth e-journal of Local Democracy will take place at 6-7.30pm on Wednesday 7 May 2008 at Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1 5HX.

2 The *Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance* Is an e-journal produced by the CLGF in association with the UTS Centre for Local Government, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.

3 CLGF is the Commonwealth organisation representing local government. It is an international organisation with members in more than 40 countries and is formally recognised by Commonwealth Heads of Government.. Its members include national and state ministries of urban and rural development, poverty alleviation and local government, municipal corporations and other councils, mayors and councils' associations and local government training and research associations as associate members.