

# CWEIC MEMBER NEWS

## A call for Commonwealth Export Champions.



CommonwealthFirst is a major new initiative to help SMEs trade and invest across the Commonwealth.

Small and medium sized businesses are the life blood of all Commonwealth Countries, they play a key role in helping countries grow and prosper and empowering different parts of our communities.

*“This is a tremendous opportunity for ambitious, small businesses to start their international journey...”*

*Royal Mail CEO, Dr Moya Greene.*

CommonwealthFirst, supported by Royal Mail, aims to empower 100 UK Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) over the next 3 years, to export across the Commonwealth.

CommonwealthFirst, which was recently launched at Marlborough House by Dr Moya Greene, CEO of Royal Mail, will promote enterprise development through capacity building; mentoring; and enhanced access to markets. Initially the programme will focus on UK companies, but we intend to expand the programme to other countries, starting with Nigeria and India over the next year. We will look at other markets where this is an appetite and strong support.

If you are a UK SME, or know of a UK SME, who has the potential to be an Export Champion please come and find out more at: [www.commonwealthfirst.org](http://www.commonwealthfirst.org)

Deadline for the first cohort of applicants is 20 June 2016, so please don't hesitate to be in touch.

## CWEIC Launches Commonwealth Trade Initiative

CWEIC in partnership with AMPP Group are excited to promote our new Commonwealth Trade Initiative (CTI), which was launched at Marlborough House during an evening reception on 18 May 2016. Focused on building intra-Commonwealth trade and investment, the CTI will connect businesses with potential opportunities across the Commonwealth through the online Commonwealth Trade Platform (CTP).

The Platform aims to enhance interconnectedness, give greater access to up to date market intelligence and enhance business relationships across the Commonwealth.

**To become a member or commercial partner, please visit:**

[www.tradecommonwealth.com](http://www.tradecommonwealth.com)

## CWEIC enhancing UK-Malaysia Business Relations

CWEIC was delighted to host the Malaysia-UK Investor Showcase in partnership with the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) on 16 May 2016 at Marlborough House.



Opened by the Hon Dato' Sri Mohammad Najib Abdul Razak Prime Minister of Malaysia and

CWEIC Chairman Lord Marland, the Showcase proved an excellent platform for strengthening business relations; establishing opportunities and partnerships; attracting high quality investment and employment opportunities.

CWEIC would like to thank Sime Darby, whose support made the Showcase possible.

## CWEIC CEO in Nigeria to strengthen relationships with Africa's largest economy



CWEIC CEO, Oliver Everett, travelled to Nigeria in May where he met with His Excellency Yemi Osinbajo GCON Vice-President of Nigeria, the Honourable Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment and the Honourable Minister for Transport. Oliver's visit was to discuss support for CommonwealthFirst Nigeria, and how CWEIC can more widely support Nigeria's economic objectives.

Also during his visit to Nigeria, Oliver was hosted by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission,

the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Ship Owners Association of Nigeria.



During the Lagos leg of his trip, Oliver called on His Excellency Akinwunmi Ambode, Governor of Lagos State, to appoint him as a Vice President of CWEIC, following confirmation that the State Government of Lagos would join CWEIC as an Institutional Strategic Partner.



## New Champion for CWEIC Members

May also saw CWEIC appoint Jonah Anthony as our new Director of Member Services. Having started his career at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Jonah joins us after spending much of the last 10 years working with the UK government to deliver renewable and low carbon energy investment and negotiating new EU energy market regulations.

Born in London of Mauritian heritage, Jonah has always had a strong connection to the Commonwealth and was delighted to be given this opportunity to join CWEIC. He said "I'm looking forward to meeting our diverse members and making sure they get the most out of the events and programmes we run."

## CWEIC providing private sector insight to Commonwealth Secretariat initiatives

CWEIC and its members were delighted to support the new Commonwealth Secretary-General Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, and her team at two recent events. The first, the Tackling Corruption Together Conference held on 11 May 2016, was designed to bring together civil society, business and government leaders. The keynote speech was given by His Excellency President Buhari of Nigeria. More information on the event can be [found here](#).

The second was the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting held in Geneva on 22 May 2016. The Hon. Christopher Fearn MP - Minister for Health, Malta and co-chair of the CWEIC Health Business Group was able to provide the meeting with an update on the work of the CWEIC group.

[Click here to find out more.](#)