

CWEIC MEMBER NEWS



CommonwealthFirst Export Champions shine in Delhi

The inaugural CommonwealthFirst trade mission saw a delegation of twelve outstanding UK SMEs travel to Delhi for the India-UK Tech Summit on 7-9 November. The Summit was attended by both the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UK Prime Minister Theresa May.



The CWEIC delegation was led by Manoj Ladwa, Member of the Advisory Board, and accompanied by CommonwealthFirst mentors including representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry, De La Rue, JCB and Taylor Rubber, who were on hand to provide guidance and encouragement for the companies seeking to enter the enormous Indian market.

As well as attending the summit, the CWEIC delegation attended events hosted by the British High Commission, British Council, Confederation of Indian Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the India Observer Research Foundation.



Richard Burge announced as CWEIC's new CEO designate

CWEIC is delighted to announce that Richard Burge has been offered and has accepted the role of CEO of CWEIC. Richard is currently the CEO of Wilton Park, an executive agency of the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office which brings together leading representatives from the worlds of politics, diplomacy, academia, business, civil society, the military and the media to provide innovative thinking on global issues.

As well as leading Wilton Park over a hugely successive 7 year period, Richard has previously been Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance, Director General of the Zoological Society of London and spent nearly 10 years in various roles at the British Council.

Richard is due to take up his CWEIC post in spring 2017.

With the inaugural Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting convening in March 2017, and preparations being made for the UK hosted Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) in Spring 2018, we are lucky to have someone of Richard's calibre to steer CWEIC through this exciting period.



Lord Marland welcomes business delegation from Jammu and Kashmir to Houses of Parliament

Lord Marland was delighted to meet businessmen from Jammu and Kashmir to discuss the prospects for the region and the role of the private sector. The delegation, led by Mr Sheikh Imran, was keen to stress

the potential of the region particularly when considering its Commonwealth links, renewable energy prospects and their culture of entrepreneurship.

CWEIC members, WGP Global, support children charity Chicks with a little help from sporting legends



CWEIC were delighted to support WGP Global at the launch of their Health and Sports & Entertainment

divisions on 17 November. An audience addressed by former England cricket captain David Gower, and including North London football legends Ian Wright and Ossie Ardiles, not only heard about the exciting changes at the firm, but also about the great work done by the children's



charity "CHICKS". CHICKS provides free, week long respite country-breaks for disadvantaged children at their holiday centres, with the aim of helping them to realise better futures. You can find out more about WGP Global work and partnership with CHICKS at www.wgp.global

New CWEIC Members

The Chairman was delighted to welcome a number of new members this autumn. New Strategic Partners include Schrodgers, the Government of Akwa Ibom, Mrs Folorunsho Alakija, Next International Nigeria Ltd and Ebenco. With an exciting 18 months ahead of us we will be

reaching out to members to become more involved as we convene the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting and Commonwealth Business Forum, as well as support a range of Commonwealth meetings and activities.



CommonwealthFirst expansion explored for India and Nigeria

The continued success of the CommonwealthFirst UK programme has provided us with a fantastic platform from which to consider establishing similar schemes in other Commonwealth countries. At the moment we are actively investigating establishing CommonwealthFirst programmes in both India and Nigeria.

As part of the feasibility study phase Programme Director John Pemberton-Piggott hosted two roundtables to examine the merits of the proposed expansion of the programme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who took part, and in particular, the State Government of Lagos and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) who hosted the Nigerian and Indian roundtable respectively.

