



**COMMONWEALTH COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE 11 – 13 MARCH 2015**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DOUALA**

**THEME: A YOUNG COMMONWEALTH**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Commonwealth of Nations came into being in 1949. Although this organisation has its origins in the British Empire, its cultural, socio-economic and geopolitical nature gives it a status that is not limited to the British Empire. This status is further highlighted in Cameroon by the fact that it was governed by Britain and France after the defeat of Germany in the First World War, thus creating a new national Franco-Britannic dispensation. Cameroon joined the Commonwealth in 1995. These political arrangements, combined with the current geopolitical developments give Cameroon a unique identity.

Commonwealth Day is celebrated during the second week in March each year, which helps to promote understanding on global issues, international co-operation and the work of the Commonwealth to improve the lives of citizens in its member states.

The theme for celebrations in 2015 is **A Young Commonwealth**.

The University of Douala has organised a national/regional conference to mark the Commonwealth Day in 2015 (11-13 March). At the conference, academic discussions and student activities will focus on the following themes:

- A Young Commonwealth - Youth as a Resource in National Development
- A Young Commonwealth, Cultural Heritage and Commonwealth Values
- A Young Commonwealth and Globalisation
- Education in/about the Commonwealth: Pedagogy and Research
- Commonwealth Alumni and Student Societies

Proposals for research papers from various disciplines, including Anthropology, Geography, History, Language, Linguistics, Literature, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, and Sociology, are invited. Please send abstracts of not longer than 250 words, not later than 31 January 2015 to [com.conf@yahoo.com](mailto:com.conf@yahoo.com).

For further details of the Conference, please contact Prof. Kizitus Mpoche, University of Douala (email: [kizitus@yahoo.com](mailto:kizitus@yahoo.com)), tel. +237 675055353; or Dr Balasubramanyam Chandramohan, PhD, FRSA, FHEA, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, London WC1E 7HU) [Bala.chandra@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Bala.chandra@sas.ac.uk)

Registration Fee: 30.000CFA/£40 UK. Students = ½ price

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

### DAY ONE: 11/03/2015

- 8.00am - Registration and tea/coffee
- 9.00am - Assembly of students / Cultural Display
- Arrival of the Douala University Commonwealth Club and the Cameroon Alumni of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Association
  - Arrival of members of the academic and administrative staff of the University of Douala
  - Arrival of delegations from different universities
  - Arrival of special invitees
- 9.45am - Arrival of the Rector, University of Douala accompanied by : the Governor Littoral Region, the Government Delegate Douala Urban Council, the SDO Wuri, the DO Douala 5, the Mayor Douala 5, the representative of the Minister of External Relations in the Littoral Region, the Nigerian Consul Douala, the South African Consul Douala
- 9.55am - Arrival of the British High Commissioner accompanied by the South African High Commissioner, the Nigerian High Commissioner and the Director of the British Council
- 10.00am - Arrival of the Minister for Commonwealth, the Minister of Youths & Civic Education, the Minister of Higher Education
- Singing of the National Anthem/Singing of the Commonwealth Anthem
- 10.30am - Invitation to the Conference by the organisers
- The Queen's Commonwealth Day Speech 2015
  - Invitation to the Conference by the Dean of the Faculty of Letters & Social Sciences
  - A speech by the Rector, University of Douala
  - A speech by the Minister for Commonwealth Affairs
  - A speech by the Minister of Youths and Civic Education
  - A speech by the Minister of Higher Education
- 12.00 - Traditional Dances

1.00pm - Lunch

3.00pm - Round Table: A Young Commonwealth - Youth as a Resource in National Development

6-7.30pm - Video projection: Documentaries/films on the Commonwealth

### **DAY TWO: 12/03/15**

8.00am - Round Table: A Young Commonwealth, Cultural Heritage and Commonwealth Values

9.30am - Tea/coffee

10.00am - Parallel Session Presentations

1.00 pm - Lunch

3pm-6pm - Parallel Session Presentations: A Young Commonwealth and Globalisation

7.00pm - Conference Dinner (TBC)

### **DAY THREE: 13/03/15**

8.00am - Round Table: Education in/about the Commonwealth: Pedagogy and Research

9.30am - Tea/coffee

10am - Parallel Sessions / Pedagogy and Research

1pm - Lunch

3.00pm - Commonwealth Alumni, Student Societies; Elections

5.45pm - End of Conference: Vote of thanks by the organisers

7.00pm - Literary and Cultural Evening (traditional dances, music groups, poetry & drama, choral music, humour, guest musician etc.)

### **DAY FOUR: 14/03/15 (Optional)**

Learning Journey to places of historical and ecological importance around Buea and Limbe.

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