
MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2010

COMMONWEALTH FELLOWSHIP UPDATE 2010

1. Assuming the current application is successful, this year's Commonwealth Fellow (CF), our third from Zambia, will be Albert Musonda, an EHO employed at Lusaka City Council, heading their Pest Control Service.
2. Albert will be with NW Region for 3 months from early September to early December
3. During his stay, Albert will hopefully be hosted by local authorities, and attend conferences or training days ,with additional visits hosted by United Utilities, FSA, HSE, WFK, CIEH International SIG, and be hosted in NW members own homes. He already has invitations to the Lake District Branch CPD training day, and the PESTEC 2010 Conference and will hopefully be able to attend Best of the Best.
4. The programme co-ordinators are grateful to the Management Board for agreeing to set aside a contingency for unanticipated expenses in respect of our hosting. It remains our intention to only make the minimum call on this contingency, by including a travel contingency on the stipend paid to the CF (See 5f below)
5. Each fellowship provides amongst other things:
 - a. • a monthly (or pro rata) living allowance for the duration of the Fellowship from which hosts will be reimbursed a set amount of £20 per night
 - b. • a fixed amount for excess baggage for return travel only dependent on the airport destination. This allows the CF to return with gifts and additional items of clothing for family members.
 - c. • a flat rate contribution of £500 to the costs of the host organisation(s), in respect of the administration and support of the Fellow, setting up of appropriate meetings and any materials required. This is paid directly to CIEH HQ and we hope the NW Region will be able to recover this amount from HQ.
 - d. • a flat rate allowance of £200 towards reasonable travel for study purposes within the United Kingdom. The cost of getting to conferences alone normally exceeds this amount.
 - e. • fees for any conferences or short courses attended during the period of the Fellowship, however the cost of some events means that careful consideration needs to be given to what is appropriate to attend. It is not always possible to notify volunteer hosts in advance.

- f. • Additional accommodation costs have to be recovered from the Fellow's stipend. For this reason this year we again intend to recover an additional £5 per night to cover travel to and from accommodation sites.
6. The Fellowships, although serving their main purpose of providing the Fellows with experience and capacity building to assist them with their work in their home countries, also assist the developing International Partnerships that continue to grow between several countries in the developing world and the CIEH. The Fellows by their presence in the UK work and socialise with their peers and friends and this helps both parties to grow to develop an understanding of their different communities.
7. Within the CIEH there is a developing group of UK based EHOs who have either personal international links or wish to see their profession grow further internationally and to use their expertise which is very suited to assisting with international problems in developing countries.

OBSERVATIONS

- 1 The Professional Fellowship Programme seeks to enhance the skills of mid-career practitioners in developing countries. Priority is given to visits which will have practical application in the areas of education, engineering, environment, governance, public health and technology. Each of these themes can be broadly defined, and it is clear that environmental health falls within more than one of the themes.
- 2 Some of the training opportunities are not advertised far enough in advance to build into the programme at planning level, and this means having to fit them in at a late stage in some instances. The Commonwealth Commissions meeting in Manchester for instance has previously been only notified a week in advance, and participants in the region are encouraged to attend, meaning travel arrangements needing to be made at the last minute.
- 3 We need to be aware that there are numerous other Commonwealth Fellows in the UK at the same time, and it is appropriate that they meet up from time to time to compare experiences. This was facilitated in 2008 by joint attendance at the Port Health Conference which was conveniently held in Manchester, and Best of the Best and HPA conferences. They also meet at the Commonwealth Commission welcome meeting which is strangely held relatively late in their programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 There is a developing core of members prepared to assist in arrangements to suit their individual circumstances, but in order to share the opportunities more widely, consideration needs to be given to encouraging additional involvement.

For this purpose, Interested members of the NW Region are welcome to contribute suggestions and offers to the itinerary and hosting possibilities of the Commonwealth Fellow that the region has agreed to host.

- 2 Previous programmes have been comprehensive to the exclusion of free time for the fellow. In this year's programme we hope to take more account of some free time, in consultation with the incumbent.
- 3 We intend to obtain more pre-visit information from the participant to help inform volunteer hosts.

B Whitehead
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17 May 2010