Commonwealth Day will be celebrated Monday 8 March. Nurses are invited to host a tea party in their workplace to celebrate Commonwealth Day and particularly to celebrate the admission of Rwanda as the 54th member of the modern Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent member countries - from Africa to Asia, from the Pacific to the Caribbean, from Europe to North America. The Commonwealth includes some of the world’s biggest countries and some of its smallest; some of the richest countries and some of the poorest. The Commonwealth is often called a family of nations and peoples. Its special strength lies in the combination of the diversity of its members and their shared inheritance in language, culture and the rule of law. There are about 1.7 billion people in the Commonwealth. That is more than a quarter (29.8%) of the world’s population.

The purpose of the Commonwealth is to:
* promote democracy and good governance, sustainable economic and social development, respect for human rights and the rule of law, gender equality and protection of the environment,
* promote partnership and co-operation among its members,
* promote understanding and tolerance among its citizens, and
* reduce prejudice, ignorance, disease and poverty.

The Commonwealth Steering Committee for Nursing and Midwifery held a very successful regional workshop in the beautiful setting of Grenada 15-16 February 2010. Around eighty nurses from Caribbean countries attended. The theme of the workshop was: *Influencing policies and people to enhance patient care*. The workshop was hosted by Miss Nestor Edwards (Chief Nursing Officer Grenada) and Mrs Hermilin Ashton (President, Grenada Nurses Association).
8th CNF EUROPEAN REGION CONFERENCE

Advancing health through nursing
12-13 March 2010
Coral Beach Hotel, Paphos, Cyprus

http://www.cyna.org

WEST AFRICA 4 SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Ghana 20-21 April 2010
Sierra Leone 26-27 April 2010

The CNF in partnership with the Ghana Nurses Association and the Sierra Leone Nurses Association will be conducting two two-day workshops in the CNF West Africa Region as part of the 4 Safety series: a safe patient, a safe workplace, a safe profession and a safe nurse. Nurses from other West Africa countries are also invited to attend.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

15TH South Pacific Nurses Forum
8-11 November 2010 Auckland New Zealand

NURSES AT THE HELM
Steering health across the Pacific

CLOSING DATE: 26 March 2010

For more information contact: Aretha Wahanui (NZNO SPNF Planning Committee) spnf@nzno.org.nz

NAMIBIA JOINS THE CNF

The CNF is delighted to welcome Namibia as a new CNF member from the CNF Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Region. Namibia has a population of around two million people and has the second lowest population density of any country in the world. Namibia gained its independence from South Africa in 1990. Critical issues for nurses in Namibia are high levels of stress and burnout related to heavy workloads and concerns related to caring for patients infected with HIV and AIDS. The CNF is looking forward to working with the Namibian Nurses Association through their spokesperson, Ms Christine Gordon.

WEAR WHITE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 8 MARCH

To celebrate the 100th year of International Women’s Day on 8th March 2010 the White Ribbon Alliance is asking women across the world to wear something white and come together in solidarity and celebration. All around the world WRA members and maternal health champions will be holding dinner parties or similar events and celebrating with friends. You can add your voice to this important celebration and help build the growing pressure for change - and for more resources for women’s health - by signing up to the White Ribbon Alliance and pledging to hold your own dinner party in aid of the global campaign to stop the needless deaths of women in childbirth.

Download the Guide and add your voice to the campaign by pledging to hold a dinner party at: http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org/internationalwomensday/iwd.html

To help you celebrate the 100th year of International Women’s Day, the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood has launched: The Global Dinner Party Guide by Yasmin Mills.
The Institution of Engineering and Technology
Healthcare Technologies Network presents

**Appropriate Healthcare Technologies for Developing Countries**

13 May 2010 IET 2 Savoy Place London 1800-2030

Keynote speaker: **Sir Liam Donaldson**
Chair, WHO Patient Safety

Sir Liam Donaldson will open the seminar by addressing the question:

**Does 'Appropriate' Compromise Patient Safety?**

The seminar is the sixth in the series and aims to promote appropriate healthcare technology that meets the needs of the developing world.

This event is free of charge and open to all.

Registration is required. Please register at: [www.theiet.org/aht2010](http://www.theiet.org/aht2010)

Supported by: **WHO Patient Safety**

In collaboration with: **IPEM**

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC) offers opportunities to Commonwealth citizens to study in the UK and for UK citizens to study overseas.

The UK offers seven types of award:

* Commonwealth Scholarships for PhD research,
* Commonwealth Scholarships for Master’s study,
* Commonwealth Shared Scholarships with UK universities in support of Master’s programmes,
* Commonwealth Academic Fellowships for staff serving in developing country universities,
* Commonwealth split-site Scholarships for PhD students to spend up to one year in the UK,
* Commonwealth Professional Fellowships for mid-career professionals in developing countries, and
* Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships for developing country students to study UK Master’s degree courses while living in their own countries.

Further information is available from the website of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom: [http://www.cscuk.org.uk/](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/) and from the website of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP): [http://www.csfp-online.org/countries.html](http://www.csfp-online.org/countries.html).

The CNF is interested in sponsoring mid-career professionals in developing countries in an application for a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship. The CNF program would focus on capacity building for current or future leaders of national nursing associations. The fellowship provides financial support for a period of professional development (typically three months) with a relevant UK host organisation. Further information is available from: [http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional_fellowships.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional_fellowships.asp).

Interested nurses should contact Jill at the CNF: jill@commonwealthnurses.org by 20 March 2010. Applications close 30 April 2010.