

**THIRD CPA ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
10TH – 16TH FEBRUARY 2011**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Branch Secretaries of the Asia Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, held in Opal-4 Room at Hotel Hilton, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Friday, 11th February 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

1. Mr. Dhammika Kitulgoda, Branch Secretary, Sri Lanka
2. Mr. Shampad Barua, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, Alternate Branch Secretary, Bangladesh
3. Mr. Ahmed Mohamed, Branch Secretary, Maldives
4. Mr. Karamat Hussain Niazi, Branch Secretary, Pakistan
5. Mr. Raja Muhammad Amin, Secretary, Senate of Pakistan
6. Mr. Muhammad Khan Mengal, Branch Secretary, Balochistan
7. Mr. Amanullah, Branch Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhawa
8. Mr. Maqsood Ahmad Malik, Branch Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Punjab
9. Mr. Hadi Bux Buriro, Branch Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh
10. Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Regional Secretary, Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament, CPA Sri Lanka Branch

Mr. Attaullah, Director IT & CPA Focal Person, Provincial Assembly of Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa was also present on invitation.

1). Review of the programme of the 3rd CPA Asia Regional Conference - 10th to 16th February 2011 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Branch Secretaries discussed the programme of the 3rd CPA Asia Regional Conference and resolved to recommend to the Executive Committee that it be adopted.

2). Future programme and strategy of the CPA-Asia Region.

The Branch Secretaries emphasized the importance of organizing the Regional Conference on an yearly basis as stipulated by the Regional Conference.

3). Proposals for Amendments to the Constitution of the CPA Asia Region.

The Branch Secretaries discussed the proposed Amendments to the Constitution at length. The Amendment proposed by the Sri Lanka Branch that the name of the Region be amended as the "Asia Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association" was

agreed upon unanimously and it was decided to recommend that this proposal be adopted at this Conference.

The Amendment proposed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Branch that its name, "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" be incorporated in the Regional Constitution was agreed upon at the Meeting. It was decided to recommend that this proposal be adopted at this Conference.

The Branch Secretaries also discussed the Constitutional Amendments proposed by the Pakistan National Assembly. It was observed that these proposals have not been submitted within the time frame stipulated by the Constitution and that there would be a technical problem in considering these proposals. However, the Branch Secretaries decided to discuss the proposals to enable a decision being taken at a future Conference.

In respect of the Amendment proposed to **Article 3** of the Constitution as to the change of name Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, since there is a similar proposal that has been forwarded by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Branch itself within the time frame, the Branch Secretaries agreed to recommend that this be adopted at this Conference.

In respect of the first Amendment proposed to Article 5, Clause (a) paragraph ii, that in nominating an Executive Committee Member to the Regional Executive Committee, it be done in rotation in alphabetical order, the Branch Secretaries were of the view that this Amendment could be recommended for adoption at a future meeting.

In respect of the second Amendment proposed to Article 5, Clause (b), that the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Committee for a term of three years amongst Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in alphabetical order, it was observed that this has already been incorporated in the Resolution contained in the Regional Constitution.

In respect of the Amendment proposed to Article 6, Clause (a), to locate the Regional Secretariat in Islamabad, Pakistan, the Branch Secretaries were of the view that this matter need be discussed further at a future Meeting.

4). Establishment of a Regional fund to support activities of the Region.

The Branch Secretaries did not decide to recommend the levying of an annual subscription from the Branches of the Asia Region to support activities of the Region. The Secretary, Asia Region, informed the Branch Secretaries that the Asia Regional Secretariat will function under the Protocol Division of Parliament of Sri Lanka and would not need any financial assistance in this connection. As the India Branch has indicated that the funds left over, before the creation of the Asia Region, could be

remitted, it was decided to recommend the opening of an account to deposit this amount until a decision is taken by the Executive Committee in this regard.

5). Venue for the next CPA Asia Regional Conference.

The Sindh Branch confirmed its commitment made at the 4th CPA India & Asia Regions Joint Conference held in Chhattisgarh, India, in 2010 that it will hold the next Regional Conference in the Province of Sindh in Pakistan in the year 2012.

6). Matters of importance to be taken up at the CPA Working Party.

The Branch Secretaries observed that the support extended by the CPA Headquarters towards the activities of the Asia Region has been inadequate and that representations be made at the CPA Working Party to ensure that adequate funding and support is made available for its future activities. It was also suggested that this message be conveyed to the CPA Working Party, through the representative of the CPA Asia Region, Hon. Muhammad Aslam Bhootani, Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.

The Branch Secretaries were also of the view that since the Branches constituting the Asia Region find it difficult to meet any additional costs relating to the annual CPA subscription, they need to ensure that the present criteria in calculating the subscription would prevail in future too. It was agreed to recommend that this message be conveyed to the CPA Working Party through the representative of the Asia Region, Hon. Muhammad Aslam Bhootani, Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.

7). Regional Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Activities for the year 2011.

The Branch Secretaries were informed by the Regional Secretary that the CPA Headquarters has made available some funding to conduct an activity relating to the Regional Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and that it should be made use of by the Region. However, they agreed to discuss this matter with their Hon. Speakers and to inform the Regional Secretariat whether any branch would be willing to host such an event.

8). Programme for the Closing Ceremony.

The Branch Secretaries observed that as the next Regional Conference is due to be held in the Sindh Province of Pakistan, it would be appropriate for the Hon. Speaker of the Sindh Province to make the vote of Thanks at the Closing Ceremony. However, the Branch Secretaries were of the view that the floor should be open for any other Speaker to make a short speech on this occasion.

9). Nomination of Chairpersons for the three Plenary Sessions.

Subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee it was agreed to request the following speakers to preside over the Plenary Sessions:

- Plenary 1- *Climate Change and Natural Disasters*- Hon. Abdulla Shahid, Speaker, Maldives
- Plenary II- *Poverty Alleviation* – Hon. (Dr) Mrs. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan
- Plenary III- *Mother and Child* - Hon. Abdul Hamid, Speaker, Bangladesh

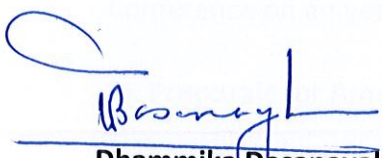
10). Allocation of Secretaries for the three Plenary Sessions.

The Branch Secretaries agreed to recommend that the Secretary of the respective Branch to which the Hon. Speaker who is chairing the session belongs, should be nominated to function as the Secretary of the Session.

11). Election of the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee to be held in 2011.

This matter was discussed at length by the Branch Secretaries. The Regional Secretary emphasized the importance of deciding on a nominee at the earliest since the election will be held for this post at the next CPA Annual Conference to be held in U.K. in July, 2011.

The Regional Secretary also informed that there is some acceptance that this would be the turn of the Asia Region to take up the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee. But, in practice, this post has been contested on occasions when elections have been held. He further informed that certain regions have already commenced canvassing for this post. The Secretary of the Maldivian Branch stated that his Speaker has informed the Branches that he will be keen to contest this post. The Branch Secretaries agreed that this matter be discussed and finalized at the Executive Committee Meeting.


Dhammika Dasanayake,
Secretary-CPA Asia Region