

FOREWORD

I am excited to announce the launch of the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) – a new pan-Commonwealth professional association of vital interest to all engaged in government renewal.

The Inaugural Conference of CAPAM with the theme "Government in Transition" was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, in August 1994. The Conference established CAPAM formally as an institution whose primary aim will be to enhance Commonwealth co-operation to improve management in government.

The Conference was deemed a unique and successful occasion by those who attended. Its uniqueness lay in its bringing together about 150 Commonwealth public service leaders at the highest levels from 41 member states. Prime Ministers, Ministers of Finance and of the Public Service, Secretaries to Cabinets and other important office holders were all represented.

The Conference addressed issues of concern and common interest. The summary report, prepared by Professor Sandford Borins, Professor of Public Management at the University of Toronto, found that: "despite the diversity of the Commonwealth countries, there was a common pattern in their responses. So strong is this common pattern that it could be labelled a new paradigm in public administration".

The Board of CAPAM accepted with pleasure the invitation of Dr Fenech-Adami, the Prime Minister of Malta, to hold the next General Meeting of CAPAM in Malta in 1996. Mr Joseph Tabone, a Board member from Malta, has been requested to convene a Planning Committee to prepare for the Conference.

The Board of CAPAM further invited one of its members, Dr Zola Skweyiya, the Minister for Public Service and Administration in South Africa, to develop a formal proposal to convene the first regional conference of CAPAM in South Africa addressing issues of public service renewal in all the member states of southern Africa.

In closing, we are all partners in this enormous challenge to respond to the new paradigm in public administration. We encourage our founding members, our associates, and all those who are convinced of the importance of sound public administration as the cornerstone of equitable development, to assist in this journey by supporting the development of CAPAM in the coming years.

Gordon Draper
President
CAPAM