

**COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
CAM GENERAL PROGRAMME AND MEETING 2008**

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
Meeting Resolution

Commonwealth Association of Museums Georgetown Declaration

1. Whereas museums perform essential roles in development and in improving our understanding and appreciation of human and natural heritage locally and internationally.
2. Whereas museums are increasingly concerned about the issues of racism, terrorism, peaceful co-existence, and climate change.
3. Whereas museums could play a stronger role in fostering respect, balance and understanding of the past experiences and future aspirations of people.
4. Whereas the lack of support for people working in museums is an impediment to maintaining cultural and biological diversity.
5. Whereas many museums are struggling to hire and retain qualified staff, provide a basic level of collections management and research, and develop engaging exhibitions, interpretive and educational programs.

Recommendations

That the Commonwealth Association of Museums work with ICOM to expand the definition of the museum to refer specifically to the role of museums in community development (i.e., museums and diversity, both human and environmental).

That the Commonwealth Association of Museums redevelop its Distance Learning Program underpinning the values of the Commonwealth Foundation, paying particular attention to current issues such as cultural and biological diversity, disaster preparedness, alleviation of poverty, HIV and AIDS, etc.; and subsequently encourage museums throughout the Commonwealth to recognize the Program as entrance level training in museology.

That the Commonwealth Association of Museums encourage museums throughout the Commonwealth as agents of civil society to build strong and meaningful collaborations and partnerships with the local community, including the private sector both in their own countries and internationally.

That the Commonwealth Association of Museums encourage museums to document, research and incorporate indigenous intangible heritage in exhibitions and programs to complement Western scientific knowledge in conservation of the environment, where appropriate.

That the Commonwealth Association of Museums urge museums to participate in the annual International Biodiversity Day and in particular 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

That the Commonwealth Association of Museums urge the Commonwealth Foundation and member states to increase their financial support for museums and heritage organizations, and to imbed support in official policy, at all levels of government throughout the Commonwealth.