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(1) Induction Course for Members of Parliament, Kenya

The CPA Secretary-General, Dr William F. Shija, represented the Association at the three-day Induction Course for Members of the National Assembly of Kenya from 27 to 29 March in Nairobi. The Secretary-General was invited to participate as a Resource Person by the Speaker of the National Assembly and the CPA Secretariat also sponsored the participation of Ms Karen Buck, MP, (United Kingdom) as a Resource Person. Dr Shija gave a presentation to Members about the CPA and its work in support of its member Parliaments. The participation of the Secretary-General of the CPA followed recent meetings held at the Secretariat between Dr Shija and the new Speaker and Deputy-Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon. Kenneth Marende, MP, and Hon. Farah Maalim, MP. In Nairobi, the Secretary-General also met Vice-President Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, MP, Prime Minister Designate Hon. Raila Odinga, MP, and Foreign Minister Hon. Moses Wetangula, MP, who is also a Member of the CPA Executive Committee.

(2) Public Accounts Committee Secretariats Workshop for Asia and India

A World Bank/CPA Public Accounts Committee Secretariats Workshop for Asia and India was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 18 to 20 February. Eighteen members of parliamentary staff from India, Maharashtra, Maldives, Sri Lanka and West Bengal CPA Branches attended. Other countries in South Asia were invited by the World Bank and included: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Thirty-five participants in total participated including representatives from the Supreme Audit Institutions (Auditors General Offices) in each country. Resource persons included Mr Craig James, Deputy Clerk of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly and also Clerk to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Mr James is also the Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees.

Sessions of the Workshop were developed in consultation with the World Bank Financial Management Specialists for the South Asia Region and included: Establishing the Baseline, How (Good) PACs Work, How (Good) PAC Secretariats Work, Peer Support Networks, Action Plans and Joint Session with World Bank Staff. Discussions included time spent developing 'Action Plans' drafted by each delegation which proposed focused measures to improve scrutiny by both the Public Accounts Committee Secretariat and Audit Office. Each delegation's 'Action Plan' targeted specific weaknesses in scrutiny procedures identified during the discussions. This programme of work complements the ongoing CPA collaboration with the WBI in the area of strengthening Parliament's financial scrutiny capacity. It also represents an effort to focus specifically on supporting PAC secretariats in order to complement the work the CPA has already done in this area. The World Bank met the travel, meeting venue, accommodation and meal costs for the Workshop. The CPA Secretariat was represented by Ms Meenakshi Dhar, Assistant Director of Programmes.

(3) 2008 Summer School for Public Accounts Committees

Extensive action plans to improve financial scrutiny in their Parliaments were developed by participants at the 2008 Summer School for Public Accounts Committees. The 3 to 14 February seminar in Australia was the third run by the CPA with the World Bank Institute (WBI), the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) and La Trobe University's Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre. This year's programme, focusing on Public Accounts Committees - Practices, Procedures and Relationships, was attended by 35 PAC Members and Clerks and representatives of Auditors General from Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Indonesia and Timor Leste and Bangladeshi parliamentary and Auditor General's officials. Reports will be available soon on the CPA website and in *The Parliamentarian*. The CPA Secretariat was represented by Mr Andrew Imlach, Director of Communications and Research.

ENDS
