



# COMHAD



## COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH & DISABILITY

(RECOGNISED BY THE COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION, LONDON UK)  
Commonwealth Foundation – Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1YSHY,UK  
(Founded in 1983)



(Dr. Bodhankar with Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of England)

### SECRETARIAT

**Dr UDAY BODHANKAR**

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**Secretary General COMHAD UK**

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### FUTURE ROLE OF COMHAD

The new team should evolve new innovations and new ideas and new concepts in view of globalizations, change in global and individual economy, and entry of health insurance and dominance of drug companies.

Taking into consideration of all these factors and the original aims and objectives of COMHAD, following topics are finalized.

- To develop good Governance.
- To develop strategies to raise funds.
- To develop effective communication COMHAD Newsletter.
- To prepare the second edition of COMHAD Directory.
- To appoint one fund raising officer.
- To establish & strengthen net work & identify donors.
- The team should define the role & responsibilities of each one including one responsible for membership & one treasurer.
- To establish a strong COMHAD Asian Chapter.

**In future there will be two major programmes of COMHAD :**

1. Perinatal Health Care including newborn care.
2. Preventive & Promotive Health Care for low and middle income group of the community in urban settings.



From Disability To Ability



## COMHAD INTRODUCTION

COMHAD was established in the United Kingdom in 1983 with support from the Commonwealth Foundation. COMHAD is one of the Commonwealth Professional Associations and a Pan-Commonwealth Non-Government Organization (NGO) working in the field of health and development focusing on preventive health care. COMHAD is in official relations with WHO since 1990 and is a long standing partner of WHO for collaboration. It is actively involved in promoting health development, exchange of technical expertise and inter-country training and education in health in 53 Commonwealth countries all over the world.

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Association shall be to provide education and research in health and disability for quality of life by raising awareness for prevention of disease and disabilities and promoting health care for low and middle income group of the community in urban settings. In the furtherance of this aim the Association will advocate and promote :

- i. Quality health care
- ii. Accessible, acceptable and affordable health care, in particular for people with disability
- iii. Professional links between workers in health and disability across the Commonwealth.
- iv. The aims and objectives will be achieved through regional and international conferences, workshops and symposiums, publications and communications, demonstration and other projects, training exercises and professional exchange and development programmes.

### MEMBERSHIP & VOTING RIGHTS

- i. Membership of COMHAD shall build upon, be continuous with, and transferable from its predecessor CAMHADD.
- ii. Membership shall be open to interested individuals from any country.
- iii. Membership of the Executive Committee shall be open only to individuals from Commonwealth countries. However, those having changed citizenship, but originally coming from a Commonwealth country may be elected to the Executive Committee.
- iv. On acceptance, each member will pay such annual subscription as may be determined by the Executive Committee. Subscriptions fall due on 1st January and all members are expected to pay promptly and remain in good standing, which will remain valid till 31st December. The subscription of membership will be the same whenever in the calendar year one is accepted as member of the organization.
- v. All members may vote on matters put before the General Assembly.

### TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated as follows :

- i. By resignation.
- ii. Through default in the payment of membership subscriptions.
- iii. Where conduct is in any way damaging to the interests and good name of the Association, in which case the Secretary General will notify the member to explain his/her conduct within 30 days. If s/he fails to do so or his/her conduct or his explanation is found to be unsatisfactory, the Executive Committee is empowered to remove such a member.

Membership of the Executive Committee may be terminated if any member remains absent from three consecutive meetings, or does not respond by post or emails explaining the reasons for such absence.

## COMHAD Activities : August 2008- August 2012

- ✳ COMHAD (Commonwealth Association for Health and Disabilities) met at Pondicherry on 15th and 16th August 2008 and reorganized the organization with an aim to keep it updated on health issues in the Commonwealth countries. The theme of the two day workshop was "CAMHADD Vision 2020: Aids and Child Development".
- ✳ **COMHAD was previously known as CAMHADD** (Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap and Developmental Disabilities). However the terminology came under criticism as not being appropriate to address the disabled. Thus during the **General body meeting of CAMHADD at Pondicherry it was resolved and adopted the change in name of the organization as COMHAD on 15th August 2009.**
- ✳ Dr. Mark Collins, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation was present during the entire procedure of the two day workshop of COMHAD at Pondicherry which also elected the new COMHAD Executive Committee.
- ✳ Subsequently the new amended Constitution was given a final shape and adopted by the general members.
- ✳ The EC of COMHAD consists of one President, five Vice presidents from Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, Canada and the Caribbean's, One Secretary General, One Treasurer, and Two Joint Secretaries.
- ✳ After finalization of the Constitution, COMHAD launched its **website as <http://www.comhad.org>.**
- ✳ The website consists of the constitution, membership form, publishes activity news and pictures.
- ✳ As a continued part of activity of COMHAD , the **Bangladesh Chapter of COMHAD** was reorganized and constitution of the Bangladesh Chapter was finalized and adopted.  
Information regarding the Bangladesh Chapter is also available in its website.  
Prof. M. S. Akbar, FRCP, FICP, a pediatrician of International repute is the President of the Bangladesh Chapter of COMHAD. He has been elected member of the Parliament for three times and currently is the Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.
- ✳ **The Bangladesh Chapter of COMHAD is now working with three Projects on childhood disabilities.**
  - a) **Development of the Neuroscience and childhood development facilities at (BSMMU).**
  - b) **Childhood Low Vision and Blindness**
  - c) **Childhood Low Vision and blindness - Dr Kazi Shabbir Anwar, Consultant, Pediatric Ophthalmology at Bangladesh Eye Hospital.**
- ✳ A workshop on the theme of Science and technology in the Commonwealth Countries and a National conference will take place in Bangladesh within 2012.
- ✳ Dr. Uday Bodhankar, Secretary General, COMHAD is also designated as the focal person of COMHAD for all the NGO & WHO contacts. He represented COMHAD on the 60th Anniversary of the Commonwealth Foundation. He met the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation and also visited the Buckingham Palace and met Her Majesty the Queen of England on 29th April 2009.

## COMHAD Activities : August 2008- August 2012

- ✱ Prof. Md. Sirajul Islam, MBBS, FCPS (Paed.), Ph.D, represented COMHAD at the 63rd World Health Assembly (WHA) and also the Commonwealth Health Ministers meeting (CHMM). He met various personalities of the Commonwealth Foundation and WHO during his presence in Geneva on 16 and 17 May 2010.
- ✱ Kathryn Currow, a pediatrician and Vice President of COMHAD from Australia also attended the WHA and CHMM with the President of COMHAD and met various dignitaries of CF and WHO.
- ✱ Dr. Sirajul Islam and Dr. Kathryn Currow, both attended the debate on "G Goal 2015, achievable or not achievable" by 2015 organized by CNF. The meeting was addressed by Jil Illefe, Secretary - CNF, Dr. Mark Collins - Director, CF and Dr. Arulrhaj, President CMA and others. Both of them took active part to finalize the Constitution of the Commonwealth Health Professional Association (CHPA).
- ✱ About International relationship, COMHAD has made contacts with Dr. Kathryn Currow to train doctors with post graduate paediatric course in Association with The Children Hospital at Westmead, University of Australia. The courses hopefully will be organized both in India and Bangladesh.
- ✱ COMHAD organised International Conference at GOA on Sept., 10.11.2011. On Theme "Women as agents of Change"
- ✱ COMHAD had session in National IAP Conference at Gurgaon India in Jan. 19, 2012.
- ✱ COMHAD had one session during National Disability Conference on **16th Sept. 2012** at Nagpur, India
- ✱ COMHAD Bangladesh has organised International Conference on **Dec. 26, 2012** at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COMHAD UK

<b>President</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Prof. Md. Sirajul Islam</b> Director, Holy Family RC Medical College Dhaka, Bangladesh. Email : msiraj46@gmail.com
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		<div> <b>Prof. Sam Lingam (Europe/UK)</b> London, UK Email: proflingam@aol.com </div> <div> <b>Prof Rajaram Pagadala (Asia)</b> Former DG GOI, Hyderabad, India Email : professorrajaram@yahoo.com </div>
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<b>Secretary General :</b>		<b>Dr Uday Bodhankar</b> Ex SCM IPA / President ISTEP / IAP Nagpur, MS, India Email : ubodhankar@hotmail.com
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