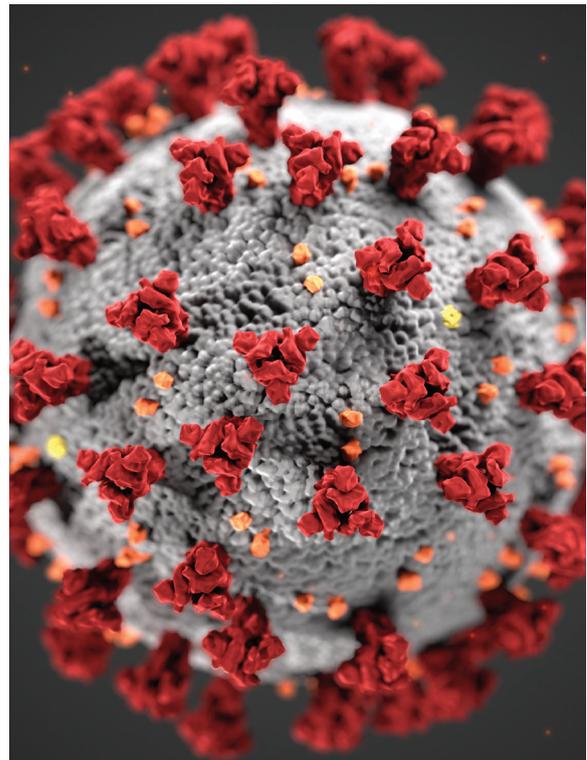


Commonwealth Innovations

September 2020

Commonwealth develops data dashboard to monitor COVID-19

The Commonwealth Secretariat has developed a dashboard that provides a daily bulletin with data and analysis on the scale and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in all Commonwealth countries, which includes daily percentage changes, doubling times and seven-day moving averages for confirmed cases and deaths. The tool, powered by data from the World Health Organisation and other international data sources, is designed to help Commonwealth countries collectively monitor, analyse and respond to the pandemic more effectively. The dashboard has a dedicated page for each of the 54 Commonwealth countries. The interactive features on the dashboard, including a Trend Analysis Tool, make it possible to easily compare and analyse the current and historic data for multiple countries at the same time. Every country page also features a daily Mobility Trends Report – a set of infographics based on data made available by Google Maps that displays the impact of policy measures such as lockdowns on movement trends in public spaces, for example, parks and transportation hubs. [MORE](#)



Coronavirus Response Centre launched on Commonwealth Innovation Hub

The Commonwealth has set up a Coronavirus Response Centre on its innovation platform that collates relevant information, resources and data to help Commonwealth countries respond to the

pandemic. The interactive platform is enabling the Commonwealth to respond innovatively to COVID-19 in an agile, collaborative and efficient way. [MORE](#)

COMMONWEALTH INNOVATION PLATFORM



A digital platform designed to tap and unleash the innovation potential of the Commonwealth.

[Join here.](#)

Satellite data helps Commonwealth countries map coral reefs



The Commonwealth Secretariat is using high-resolution images and data from satellite technology to map the nearly half of the remaining but endangered tropical coral reefs in the world that are in the Commonwealth. The interactive maps will assist Commonwealth countries to take action to protect coral reefs. The maps are available to view and use on the Commonwealth Innovation Platform. [MORE](#)

Commonwealth Foundation develops gender analysis guidance tool

The gender analysis tool developed by the Commonwealth Foundation, which champions the critical role of civil society organisations in Commonwealth countries, is intended to help key stakeholders understand the connections between gender and climate change, as well as

help Commonwealth countries develop more gender-sensitive climate adaptation policies and programmes. The tool emerged from the Commonwealth Foundation’s partnership with Caribbean civil society organisations. [MORE](#)

Eleven Commonwealth countries move up in 2020 Global Innovation Index

The World Intellectual Property Organisation's Global Innovation Index for 2020 shows that approximately 31% of Commonwealth countries improved their ranking in the index in comparison

with the 2019 index. Due to lack of sufficient data only 29 Commonwealth countries feature in the index.

Member country	Commonwealth rank	Global rank	Global change from 2019
United Kingdom	1	4	1
Singapore	2	8	0
Canada	3	17	0
Australia	4	23	-1
New Zealand	5	26	-1
Malta	6	27	0
Cyprus	7	29	-1
Malaysia	8	33	2
India	9	48	4
Mauritius	10	52	30
South Africa	11	60	3
Brunei Darussalam	12	71	0
Jamaica	13	72	9
Kenya	14	86	-9
Tanzania	15	88	9

Member country	Commonwealth rank	Global rank	Global change from 2019
Botswana	16	89	4
Rwanda	17	91	3
Trinidad and Tobago	18	98	-7
Sri Lanka	19	101	-12
Namibia	20	104	-3
Pakistan	21	107	-2
Ghana	22	108	-2
Malawi	23	111	7
Uganda	24	114	-12
Bangladesh	25	116	0
Nigeria	26	117	-3
Cameroon	27	119	-4
Zambia	28	122	2
Mozambique	29	124	-5

Source: World Intellectual Property Organisation

Young innovators from Canada, Fiji, Pakistan and Uganda win 2020 Youth Awards



Four outstanding young people from around the Commonwealth have won the 2020 Commonwealth Youth Awards for innovative projects that are delivering sustainable development in their countries. Galabuzi Brian

Kakembo of Uganda scooped the overall prize of 2020 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year for his work on transforming biodegradable plastics and organic waste into eco-friendly charcoal briquettes. [MORE](#)

Commonwealth, UNCTAD, ILO partner to unlock e-commerce potential

The Commonwealth Secretariat is partnering with 31 other organisations for the 'eTrade for All' initiative, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The e-commerce scheme works to leverage the

expertise and resources of all partners to ensure no one is left behind in the digital economy and includes programmes such as eTrade Readiness Assessments and the eTrade for Women initiative. [MORE](#)

Commonwealth of Learning launches online courses in response to COVID-19

With most Commonwealth countries in a state of lockdown due to COVID-19, Commonwealth of Learning has launched three massive open online courses (MOOCs) on agriculture. The courses cover topics related to pest management, improved

practices in extension, as well as agricultural and rural entrepreneurship. Close to 24,500 learners from 30 countries have signed up for the MOOCs. [MORE](#)

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's video masterclasses

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Masterclasses are a new online resource to assist lawmakers and parliamentary staff in their professional development. CPA Masterclasses are

concise video briefings on a particular subject or topic such as gender and trade. They aim to build parliamentary capacity and knowledge. [MORE](#)

Australia sets up fund to boost recycling innovation

A new A\$100 million investment fund aims to boost the proportion of refuse recycled in Australia and encourage innovation to prevent trash from ending up in landfills. The Australian Recycling Investment

Fund is part of a A\$167 million government plan to tackle plastic waste and halve food waste by 2030. [MORE](#)

Frugal innovation brings affordable and clean energy to Vanuatu

Vanuatu has started testing an energy system called 'Power Blox', which is the first-ever use of swarm technology in the Pacific region. Instead

of compromising on quality and performance, the technology provides affordable and clean energy. [MORE](#)

Commonwealth software helps manage COVID-19 impact on debt

Countries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can better manage debt repayment using specialised software developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Launched last year, Commonwealth Meridian is currently in use by

central banks and government agencies across the Commonwealth to monitor transactions, conduct in-depth debt analysis and to help take advantage of the moratorium on debt repayments agreed by international lenders. [MORE](#)

Rwanda close to meeting reforestation pledge

When Rwanda committed to restoring two million hectares of land in 2011 as part of a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested areas, it seemed like a big task. Yet

it has already restored nearly a million hectares. How did it manage to fulfil half its original pledge in less than a decade? [MORE](#)

Barbados port set for 'wave of innovation'

The Barbados government has resolved to make its port the "most innovative and green maritime hub in the world by 2030" by implementing digital solutions to foster the development of port

infrastructure, the enhancement of productivity and efficiency and the development of green technology. [MORE](#)

Digital inclusion, 'smart tech' power Bangladesh's progress

Bangladesh's digital inclusion strategy and use of 'smart technology' is helping the country to develop more rapidly, reduce poverty and improve the accessibility, quality and affordability of health

services. Over 5,000 Digital Centres have been set up across the country to cover the "last mile" and ensure the various digital services reach all citizens, addressing the issue of the digital divide. [MORE](#)

Would you like to share your Commonwealth innovation story with 2.4 billion people in 54 Commonwealth countries?

Then please write to us with the details at innovation@commonwealth.int



Maldives, Seychelles and Commonwealth launch landmark deep-sea mission



'First Descent' is a series of expeditions to explore and conserve the world's most unknown and least protected ocean: the Indian Ocean. The mission is a

partnership project that includes the governments of Seychelles and the Maldives, the Commonwealth and the Nekton Foundation. [MORE](#)

Mobile innovation aids farmers in Kenya and Zambia

Innovators in Kenya have developed a mobile phone app to help farmers better gauge the weight of their livestock. Called eWeigh, the app is a free farm management resource tool, built around

the use of a simple proxy measure – heart girth (HG) – to estimate live weight. Another innovation in Zambia, is bringing digital banking to thousands of farmers. [MORE](#)

Commonwealth and partners launch online sport for development course

The Commonwealth Secretariat, in partnership with the Government of Australia and the International Platform on Sport and Development, has launched a new free online course that will help people and organisations harness the potential of sport in their work towards achieving sustainable development. The course is designed to meet the needs of a

diverse group of learners, including policymakers, development practitioners and the private and civil society sectors. [MORE](#)