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# Commonwealth Junior Election Professionals (JEP) Initiative

23 June 2016



The Commonwealth

## JEP Phase One: Training Events

1. **Pan-Commonwealth pilot** (New Delhi, India; October 2013): 23 EMBs
2. **Pacific region** (Canberra, Australia; March 2014): 7/11 regional EMBs
3. **Caribbean & Americas region** (Kingston, Jamaica; September 2014): 11/13 regional EMBs

## JEP Phase One: Training Events (cont.)

4. **Asia region** (New Delhi, India; March 2015):  
7/8 regional EMBs

5. **Africa region** (Gaborone, Botswana; August  
2015): 17/19 regional EMBs

**Totals: 88 participants (38 men and 46 women) from 42 Commonwealth EMBs**

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Abdul Qayyum Khan, Deputy Director, Election Commission of Pakistan (JEP Asia, March 2015)

Vincentia Laurent Adrien, Dominica Electoral Office (JEP Caribbean & Americas, September 2014)

Carson Barban, Elections & Boundaries Commission, Trinidad and Tobago (JEP Caribbean & Americas, September 2014)

Dorcas Crentsil, Election Commission of Ghana (JEP Africa, August 2015)



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## JEP Training Events: Topics

- **Day one:** EMB independence
- **Day two:** Working with political parties
- **Day three:** Voter registration
- **Day four:** Public participation and managing incumbency
- **Day five:** Polling, tabulation and transmission of results

(NB. Gender mainstreamed within all discussions)

Survey research question: *How confident are you in discussing the following topics within the JEP training programme?*

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## Impact achieved: Individual Level

- **100%** of participants agree that they have **learned and benefited** from participation.
- **85%** stated that participation had **increased their skills, knowledge and effectiveness** as electoral administrators.
- **95%** believe that participation will have a **positive impact on their careers**.
- **77%** have **stayed in touch** with their fellow JEPs.

(Findings taken from the October 2015 JEP Final Impact & Assessment Survey)

## Impact achieved: Institutional Level

- **40%** stated that they have **sought advice on electoral good practice** from their peers through the Commonwealth Connects online community.
- **43%** of participants stated that they had either been **promoted or assigned additional responsibilities** since attending a JEP event.
- **47%** reported that their **EMBs were doing things differently** as a result of their recommendations.

(Findings taken from the October 2015 JEP Final Impact & Assessment Survey)





## Participant comments from the October 2015 JEP Final Impact & Assessment Survey

“I continually impress upon colleagues the importance of the EMB being neutral, non-partisan and unbiased to preserve and protect the constitutional rights of voters.”

“We now hold meetings with CSOs for enhancing voter participation and registration...”.

“I advise the commission on the importance of making policies that are gender sensitive & that enhance the participation of women.”

“I have discussed with my supervisors the need for the commission to include skilled persons with disabilities as poll workers.”

“I now look for communities of interest in terms of delimitation -



## Participant comments from the October 2015 JEP Final Impact & Assessment Survey

“My recommendations have led to voter education initiatives using social media...”.

“We’ve now engaged the Federation of Disability Organisations to develop guidelines for the disabled access to polling stations.”

“The Commission has held consultations with media/observers to devise Code of Conduct for upcoming Local Government elections.”

“I’ve suggested to higher-ups to conduct consultations with political parties on campaign financing.”

## Participant comments from the October 2015 JEP Final Impact & Assessment Survey

“I’ve gathered a lot of knowledge on the funding of campaigns and how it could be monitored.”

“I came to know the importance of civic & voter education in combatting voter apathy...”

“I was able to rethink elements of electoral fraud and how to address them.”

“Making recommendations to the commission on the best practices of transmitting results.”

“The training also motivated me to love my job even more. This is because the facilitators and Commonwealth team proved that elections are very important and ought to be taken seriously.”

## JEP Phase Two: What do we need from you?

- **Partnership:** collaborate on programme design, needs assessments and training methodologies.
- **Assistance** in identifying suitable candidates.
- Designated **focal points** for JEP issues.
- Active & ongoing collaboration in **measuring project impact** (e.g. six-monthly reports from line managers).
- **Hosts** for JEP training events.

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(always happy to talk JEP!)

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