

Dr Mark Collins. Welcome words: Abstract

Dr Mark Collins, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, focused on the context for the Symposium, in particular the Commonwealth events taking place in Uganda later in 2007. He explained that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) would address the issue of “Transforming Commonwealth Societies to Achieve Political Economic and Human Development”. The CHOGM would be preceded by the Commonwealth People’s Forum (CPF), in which civil society would debate the issue of “Realising People’s Potential”. The conclusions of the Pre-CHOGM Symposium on Science and Technology should feed into both the CPF and the CHOGM, with a view to strengthening the commitment of the Commonwealth to scientific and technological innovation as a key to the transformation of societies, and in particular to development in Africa.