



British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter July 2015

This is the first BGIPU newsletter of the 2015-20 Parliament. The BGIPU Secretariat is grateful for the support of all members in our preparations for the work of the Group for the period ahead. You can see at the end of this newsletter that we have plans for a wide range of inward and outward delegations and a number of other inter-parliamentary events as the year progresses. We are very pleased to see the BGIPU Executive Committee reconstituted following the General Election with Nigel Evans MP elected BGIPU Chair at the 30 June Special General Meeting.

Rick Nimmo, Director

BGIPU/FCO Briefing on Middle East and North Africa

6 July 2015 - by *BGIPU*



In conjunction with the FCO Leadership Week, BGIPU and the FCO held a joint briefing on the situation in North Africa and the Middle East on the 6th July. Chaired by FCO Minister Tobias Ellwood, who highlighted the UK's strong involvement in region, Members had the opportunity to hear from a number of key Ambassadors to the region about the situation in their respective countries.

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UK Young MPs keen to advance youth empowerment through IPU networks

1 July 2015 - by *BGIPU*



On 1 July, BGIPU hosted young MPs to discuss IPU initiatives to advance political engagement of youth and improve the representativeness of parliaments. Gavin Shuker MP and Chloe Smith MP, who represented the UK Parliament in consecutive IPU Global Conferences of Young Parliamentarians, reported back to parliamentary colleagues on the IPU's work and international efforts to enhance networks and support for young parliamentarians worldwide. MPs agreed the UK Parliament should play an active role in support of the IPU's work.

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Nigel Evans MP confirmed as new BGIPU Chair at 30 June SGM

30 June 2015 - by *BGIPU*



A Special General Meeting (SGM) on 30 June elected Nigel Evans MP as the new BGIPU Chair in the wake of the recent 2015 General Election in the UK. The SGM also elected new members to fill a number of other Executive Committee vacancies along with the nomination of Ian Liddell-Grainger MP to fill the UK vacancy on the IPU's Executive Committee

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Roundtable on Eastern European Security

17 June 2015 - by *BGIPU*



On 17 June 2015 BGIPU hosted a roundtable on Eastern European Security that brought together Members from both Houses, Ambassadors and Embassy representatives from relevant countries and academic experts. Chaired by Steve Pound MP, the event gave Members who had recently participated in BGIPU visits to the region (Armenia, Georgia, Poland and Ukraine) the opportunity to report back and highlight some of the outcomes and hear from Ambassadors about the current situation and priorities in their country.

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BGIPU takes part in IPU Information Seminar in Geneva

12 June 2015 - by *BGIPU*

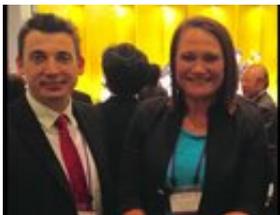


From 8 to 12 June 2015 BGIPU staff member Anja Richter participated in a seminar at the IPU headquarters in the House of Parliaments in Geneva, together with Secretaries and Clerks from other parliaments' IPU Groups, to learn more about the functioning of the IPU and its procedures, and to exchange ideas and knowledge with counterparts.

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Young MPs meet in Tokyo to counter youth alienation and disengagement

28 May 2015 - by *BGIPU*



A major international conference of the world's young MPs in Tokyo in late May has called for policies to end the alienation and radicalization of young people, including new education policies and employment quotas. About 190 young MPs attended the IPU Global Conference of Young MPs making a series of recommendations on addressing some of the biggest challenges facing the world's 3.5 billion youth populations including unemployment, discrimination and conflict. Gavin Shuker MP represented the UK Parliament at the event.

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Outgoing BGIPU Chair expresses thanks for support

27 May 2015 - by *BGIPU*

Following his appointment as UK Minister of State for Health, the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, has stood down from the position of BGIPU Chair. At a State Opening reception on 27 May, the outgoing Chair



expressed thanks for the support of diplomatic missions and UK representatives abroad, noted his gratitude to BGIPU members and recognised the work of the BGIPU Secretariat in supporting his role as Chair since he was elected in December 2013. The BGIPU Chair will be filled on an ad interim basis by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP.

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BGIPU Information Stand for New and Returning Members

20 May 2015 - by *BGIPU*



The BGIPU Secretariat had an information stand in the Portcullis House Atrium on 20 May to outline its work in promoting the UK Parliament's role in inter-parliamentary affairs, particularly through the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This outreach activity provided an opportunity to promote the important role parliamentarians can play in international relations and the contribution made by IPU in promoting parliamentary perspectives on key global issues, including at major international meetings.

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PLANS FOR FORTHCOMING BGIPU ACTIVITIES

10th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament | 29-30 August 2015

Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament | 31 August-2 September

Inward Delegation from Ukraine | 8-11 September

Inward Delegation from Honduras | 14-18 September

BGIPU Executive Committee Meeting | 5pm in IPU Room, 15 September

Outward Delegation to Romania | 21-25 September

Outward Delegation to Angola | 5-10 October

Outward Delegation to Mexico | 5-10 October

Outward Delegation to Senegal | 9-13 November

Inward Delegation from Cote d'Ivoire | 23-27 November

Inward Delegation from Saudi Arabia | 7-11 December