

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2013

■ The twenty-two Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings had been hosted by seventeen countries in twenty-two cities across five continents, since 1973.

■ The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is a biennial summit meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth nations. Every two years the meeting is held in a different member state, and is chaired by that nation's respective Prime Minister or President, who becomes the Commonwealth chairperson-in-office. Queen Elizabeth II, who is the Head of the Commonwealth, has attended every CHOGM beginning with Ottawa in 1973, although her formal participation began only in 1997. However, she will be represented by the Prince of Wales at the 2013 meeting in Colombo.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa



Prince of Wales



Kamallesh Sharma

■ The 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Colombo from November 15 to 17 and President Mahinda Rajapaksa will be the Chairman. It is the first time an Asian country is hosting the Summit in 24 years.

Commonwealth countries

■ There are 54 independent states working together in the common interests of their citizens for development, democracy and peace. With just eight members in 1949, the Commonwealth has developed into a diverse group of nations across the world, working towards improving the lives of millions of people.

CHOGM events in and out of town

Dates	Event	Location
10th-14th	People's Forum	Hikkaduwa
10th-14th	Youth Forum	Hambantota
15th-16th	Spouses' programs	Colombo, Kandy, Galle

Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF)

■ Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) is one of the three key components that will be conducted on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) once in two years.

■ Over 300 delegates, including over 170 foreign representatives, will attend the CPF 2013 to be held from November 10 to 14 in Hikkaduwa.

■ The theme of CPF 2013 is 'Growth with Equity, Exclusive Development Beyond 2015'. President Mahinda Rajapaksa will inaugurate the CPF on November 10 at the Galle Fort. The sessions will continue at Chaaya Traanz, Hikkaduwa. Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Kamallesh Sharma and several Heads of State will grace the CPF. Prince Charles, who represents Queen Elizabeth II, will also attend the CPF.



Chaaya Traanz, Hikkaduwa



Colombo Cinnamon Grand



Nelum Pokuna



BMICH



Waters Edge

GRAPHICS BY MAHIL WIJESINGHE



Venues

**Nelum Pokuna (Lotus Pond)
Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre**

Event: Opening ceremony

■ The Nelum Pokuna (Lotus Pond) Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre will be the site of the opening ceremony of CHOGM 2013.

Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH)

Event: Main conference

■ Most of the main conference activities and meetings will take place at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH).

Waters Edge

Event: Heads of Government Retreat

■ The award-winning conference and recreational facility, the Waters Edge, will host the Heads of Government Retreat.

Colombo Cinnamon Grand

Event: Business Forum

■ The Colombo Cinnamon Grand is one of the most popular five-star hotels in the country for both foreigners and locals where the Business Forum will take place.



Antigua and Barbuda



Australia



Barbados



Botswana



Bangladesh



Belize



Brunei



Cameroon



Cyprus



Canada



Dominica



Grenada



Ghana



Guyana



India



Jamaica



Kiribati



Kenya



Lesotho



Malta



Malawi



Malaysia



Mauritius



Mozambique



Namibia



New Zealand



Nigeria



Nauru



Papua New Guinea



Pakistan



Rwanda



Sri Lanka



Sierra Leone



South Africa



Singapore



Seychelles



Solomon Islands



St. Lucia



St. Kitts and Nevis



St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Samoa



Swaziland



Tanzania



Trinidad and Tobago



Tuvalu



The Bahamas



Tonga



The Maldives



Uganda



United Kingdom



Vanuatu



Zambia

Fifty two CHOGM member countries who will take part in the Summit



A group photograph of CHOGM leaders in 2011