

## H.E. Kamalesh Sharma New Chancellor of Queen's University

December 10, 2009

**Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND:** His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma, current Secretary –General of the Commonwealth, was installed as the 9<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of Queen's University during a ceremony and dinner presided by Professor Peter J. Gregson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast.

He follows Senator George Mitchell who stepped down as Chancellor in March after his appointment to lead the United States of America's peacemaking efforts in the Middle East.

Professor Gregson explained to the audience of invited dignitaries, alumni and students: "Kamalesh is an exceptional figure who has served his country at the Ambassadorial level in five different Missions and whose leadership skills have been recognised by the 54 member states which make up the Commonwealth. As former High Commissioner for India in London, he has cemented close links between Northern Ireland and India, a relationship which has resulted in India becoming the second largest inward investor in the Northern Ireland economy."

Mr Sharma commented: "I am enormously proud to be invited to serve Queen's University and look forward to contributing towards strengthening its international influence.

"Queen's has high ambitions that I endorse these fully. I am enthused by its aspiration to become a global Top 100 university within the next five years. I believe it has the commitment, the resources and above all the talent to do that, and I look forward to contributing in whatever I can to help it achieve this aim."

Dr Christopher Stange, Hon. Consul of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Secretariat of the Consular (Corps) Association in Northern Ireland whom attended the event further added: "It is wonderful to have such an international statesman as Chancellor of Queen's University. We are looking forward to increasing our engagement with Queen's and the Caribbean with plans to create links with the University of West Indies. As well as various planned projects, the Commonwealth connection provides a further platform to increase and develop international relations within Northern Ireland."



H.E. Kamalesh Sharma – Secretary General of  
the Commonwealth and Chancellor of  
Queen's University Belfast

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