

Consular Association of Northern Ireland Dinner at Stormont

17 November 2010

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: A formal dinner was held this evening at Stormont Parliament to commemorate the work of the Members of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI), hosted by the Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Mr Francie Molloy MLA.

Invited guests included Members of the House of Lords, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), Heads of Central and Local Government Departments, dignitaries, media and other stakeholders.

The purpose of the event was to highlight the efforts of CA-NI Members and to create further awareness of the responsibilities and remit of the various Consular officials and represented countries in Northern Ireland. The evening was to stimulate further opportunities for engagement between the various Consuls and key individuals and Departments present.



L-R:

Row 1: Robin Newton MLA – Junior Minister, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, Kamala Lakhdir, Lord Rana MBE, Francie Molloy MLA - Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly; Row 2: Michael Ewings, Gerry McClure, Lord Ballyedmond OBE, Milan Mladek; Row 3: Franziska Hewitt, Bill Sinnerton, Dr Christopher Stange, Jerome Mullen; Row 4: Regine McCullough, Declan O’Loan MLA, Donald Price; Row 5: Margaret Lee MBE, Carson McMullan, Tom Sullivan; Row 6: Nick Lestas, Tiago Lima

Guest speakers included Mr Francie Molloy MLA - Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Mr Robin Newton MLA – Junior Minister, Office of the First Minister and deputy

First Minister and Lord Rana MBE – President of CA-NI and Hon. Consul for India in Northern Ireland.

A special presentation of handcrafted replicas of the “Lady of the Lagan” statue was made to the Office of the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Assembly (Director General and Head of Engagement) on behalf of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland.

Dr Christopher Stange, Secretariat of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland and Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland, has been instrumental in the formation of the Consular Association, which was launched in May 2009, and bringing this initiative to fruition for the benefit of all Members.

The Consular Association of Northern Ireland objectives are to bring all its Members together to create a central platform for engagement, exchange of information, social and networking opportunities.

CA-NI Members include both Career and Honorary Consuls. According to the most recent Foreign and Commonwealth Office Consular List for Northern Ireland, there are now 31 Foreign Countries represented, comprised of a mixture of both European Union and International Nations. For more information on the Consular Association of Northern Ireland please visit the website: www.ca-ni.org.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

- Consular Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) website: www.ca-ni.org
- For further information contact: Dr Christopher G. Stange, Secretariat of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland and Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland, 16-18 Glen Road, Comber, Co. Down, BT23 5EL, Tel: 028 9187 4697, Fax: 028 9187 0792, Mobile: 07803 897487, E-mail: consul@svgconsulate.co.uk or secretariat@ca-ni.org
- **President:** Lord Diljit Rana MBE – Hon. Consul for India to Northern Ireland
- **Vice President:** Mr Milan Mladek – Hon. Consul for Czech Republic to Northern Ireland
- **Secretariat:** Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland
- **Treasurer:** Mr Donald Price – Hon. Consul for Denmark to Northern Ireland
- Consul Generals, Consuls, and other Consular Officials in Northern Ireland, whether they are Career Consuls or Honorary (Hon.) Consuls, are official international government representatives appointed by their “Sending State” Government, accredited by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in United Kingdom and covered by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Consular officials are either members of a country's foreign civil service or local residents appointed by the foreign government to perform Consular activities. Consuls are appointed to further the interests of the country they represent by encouraging commercial, academic and cultural activities between countries. They also endeavour to assist, and protect the interests of their nationals in the respective jurisdiction.