

As British Parliament is considered to be the mother of all parliaments in countries where Parliamentary Democracy or the Westminster model of governance is followed, it was a training for which there cannot be any substitute. The entire course was focused on important issues in management and administration of a legislature and predominantly dealt with practical relationships rather than legal or political principles.

RIPA had roped in faculty and guest speakers from all areas of the Clerk's Department, the Library, the Official Report, the Sergeant-at-Arms' Department, civil servants responsible for interfacing with the parliamentary process and constitutional experts. Almost everyday there were two speakers and it was not a mere classroom setting. The speakers were only too willing to have a lively interaction with the participants of the training programme.

The list of Speakers and their subjects is as follows:

1. Resource Management

By Andrew Walker
Director General of Resources
House of Commons

2. Work of the Table Office

&
Select committees in the Commons
By Fergus Reid

3. UK GOVERNMENT: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

By Gavin Drewry

4. The House of Lords HR Administration

By Geoff Embleton
Deputy Director of Human Resources (Rtd)

5. House of Commons--Official Report

By Nick Beech

6. The Office of the Chief Executive and the Work of Internal Audit

By Paul Dillon-Robinson
Director of Internal Audit

7. House of Commons –information services
&
Research and Information Services for Members
By Rob Clements
Director of Service Delivery
8. The Government’s interface with Parliament
By Tim Williams
Parliamentary Training Consultant

The best feature of the training programme were the guided tours to the House of Commons and its departments, the Westminster Hall, Parallel debating Chamber, the House of Lords and its record office and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We were fortunate to witness the proceedings of the Question Hour in the House of Commons and to see the proceedings of one of the courts in Supreme Court of Britain. On the last day of our training, we were also provided with an opportunity to have interaction with the Secretary General and senior Officers of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretariat.

It was a great learning experience and highly valuable exposure wherein besides gaining a deep insight into the functioning of UK’s Parliament, we were able to draw conclusions from it and compare with what we have seen and learnt with the situations in our own Parliament.

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