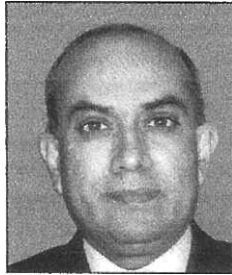


See FB's article at www.francisbennion.com/2009/011.htm

Editor's Note



Dr. Venkat Iyer

The much awaited 17th Commonwealth Law Conference is at last upon us. The local organisers in Hong Kong have, as many of you attending the conference will discover, gone to considerable lengths in putting together an intellectually stimulating and culturally enriching programme which, we are sure, will result in the delegates carrying home some good memories of both the place and the event.

We too have a varied fare in this special issue. Francis Bennion, one of our regular contributors and a doughty defender of clarity in legislative drafting returns to do battle with his detractors in the 'Plain English' lobby who have repeatedly taken exception to his view that it would be unrealistic to expect non-lawyers to understand and act upon raw legislation. In his latest blast, Bennion argues that redaction might offer a solution to the long-standing problems arising from the fact that, while ignorance of the law is no excuse to the citizen, a lay person cannot fully understand the law without legal advice. We are privileged to be chosen as a platform for this important debate.

Dr. Venkat Iyer