

INTERCOM

A Newsletter for students and others contributing to the Commonwealth Youth Programme
Diploma in Youth in Development Work

Volume 2. Issue 2

August 2004

From the Editor

This is my last issue of **INTERCOM** as editor. I am pleased that we have produced 5 issues with articles by students, CYP staff and those working in the partner institutions. Future issues will be attached to the CYP website which I suggest you check out. The new editor will be Robyn Broadbent, who is the coordinator of the BA in youth work at Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. VU has offered places to some DYD graduates from Africa and the Pacific to continue their studies at degree level. Robyn will be assisted by her daughter Perri who will bring her own approach to the layout and design. A fuller introduction follows later in this issue. I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the last five issues and a special thanks to Cristal, Glennys, Hilda Betty and Linda for encouraging students to contribute.

Inside this issue:

- Youth Empowerment in Sri Lanka. 2
- Introducing new editors 3
- New Modules on Orphans and Vulnerable Children 3
- Diploma Graduate leads International Youth Parliament Delegation 4
- Youth Empowerment in Sri Lanka. Continued
- CYP My Rainbow 5
- Benefits from CYP's Advanced Training in Youth Work 6

Solomon Islands students enabling Winds of Change

By Andre Tiipz Tipoki, President DYD Students' Association, SICHE.

Last month, June 21st – 24th our students were invited by the Civil Society Network of Solomon Islands to attend a Winds of Change Conference here in Honiara. Speakers and participants were from Solomon Islands and overseas including Kenya, South Africa, Fiji, PNG, Britain and Australia. A conference was called to help rebuild personal and public integrity and ethnic harmony in the Solomon Islands. Our students really exposed themselves and contributed well in some ideas as to how to fight against corruption and rebuild Solomon Islands.

Because of how empowering, ensuring and enabling this CYP diploma course, our student association came up with the ideas to make networks and affiliations with the churches, government, NGOs, private sectors and communities. We feel that we have the skills and knowledge to offer to these various organisations that can

contribute to the development of people and the nation as a whole.

Our student committee have talked with the Coalition on Education Solomon Islands (COESI) as to the skills and knowledge we can offer to help them. And they definitely engage the CYP students to carry out their research on Gender Education in the Solomon Islands, which will take place soon. With this, the Civil Society Network of Solomon Islands also agreed to assist the project by providing research resources

Also we met with the Foundation of People in the South Pacific office in Solomon Islands who also seek our assistance to involve in their community development programs and PLA Trainings in the provinces later this year.

And the Greenpeace office needs our support and help to

organise promotions and to participate in the programs of the Rainbow Warrior visit to the Solomon Islands in September. Our student association believes that changes towards development can't just happen if we sit and wait. It is you and me that must take the initiative to be responsible to bring about changes we want to see.

I want to appeal to other diploma students in the Commonwealth Youth Programme to do the same. It doesn't matter whether we do a voluntary work or funded projects with the organisation that we will work for. But it is the experiences and contributions towards the betterment of our communities is what matters. Nobody knows everything and this is how the world works. In working together we can help develop our people and the countries we represent.

Quotable quotes-

-Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.

Odd Stuff - Did you know!

-Australia is a major exporter of camels

Interesting Notes

Changing Face of Youth Employment in Australia Employment
Over the last three decades, substantial change has taken place in the youth labour market. Probably the most significant change has been an increase in participation in education and a deferral of entry into the full-time, long-term labour market. This also has much to do with the collapse of a youth labour market in Australia. In line with this there has been a marked shift from full-time to part-time work/casualised work.
We would like an interesting and odd news on member countries in each edition. Please send them in and we will include them. A little offbeat is OK to.

Youth empowerment in Sri Lanka: student perspectives from OUSL Centre



Azmiya Badurdeen writes:

Youth empowerment is an important issue world wide. This is mainly because young people make up a critical mass of the current world popula-

tion and represents the mature adult work force and population of the future.

Young people are empowered when : they acknowledge that they have or can create choices in life, are aware of the implications of those choices, makes an informed decision freely, takes action based on that decision, and accepts responsibility for the consequences of that action.

Empowerment can be one of the most effective strategies for providing young people with opportunities to develop competence. Over the past decade 'empowerment' has become the buzzword in business, evaluation and youth development.

On the present Sri Lankan context, many challenges are faced in the empowerment of youth. This is because youth faces problems such as:

1. non-authoritarian adult leadership
2. being able to experience and exercise power

3. receiving education and training
4. participating in critical analysis of issues
5. experiencing an environment of safety, closeness and appreciation
6. being able to honestly express opinions and emotions
7. accepting diversity
8. developing a voice
9. being able to take action

Factors such as karmic fatalism, which had been shaping our tradition for generations, can also be considered a hindrance to youth empowerment.

In Sri Lanka young people are seen as a problem rather than a valuable resource that can be a valuable asset on the development of the country. The CYP Diploma could be a valuable source of study for the problems affecting youth in Sri Lanka.

Many factors contribute to the present context of youth empowerment in Sri Lanka. These factors are shaped with the gradual evolution of culture and traditions of

the country. Many youth are influenced by parental way of thinking which can be considered as primitive. This could bring about devisive tendencies, due to caste, creed and religion. Factors such as karmic fatalism, which had been shaping our tradition from generations, can also be considered as a hindrance in youth empowerment. This is due to the fact that many youth are influenced by a controlled destiny of a rebirth life. These tendencies could create a sick society. Therefore, to do away with these tendencies, attitudinal changes with democratic values and respect for Human rights should be implemented.

The CYP program covers a wide range of Commonwealth values, based on democratic and human right principles. These principles are widely respected and implemented among commonwealth countries. The program also provides training in democratic styles of leadership such as consensual decision making, adapting to groups of varied backgrounds and problems, principles of gender equality, understanding different values, religions and traditions. Therefore this program would be of immense benefit for a country with multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural segments in society where hostilities may evolve from time to time.

Sri Lanka also had a distinct
(Continued page 4)



R. Kaluarachichi writes:

Youth Development and Youth Empowerment has become highly relevant to developing countries like Sri Lanka. In the past decade or two, youth Development has been receiving more and

more priority from the particular governments. As a result these governments have been receiving international assistance for youth development programmes.

In the above context, most developing nations have been involved in getting youth energies harnessed to the overall development of the country without considering them to be a dependant section of the country's population and as problem to a nation. These programmes have been handled mostly without qualified guidance by non-professionals. It is in this context that the CYP Diploma becomes relevant in achieving the goal of youth empowerment.

I myself have been involved in government and non-governmental youth development projects for the last 10 years. However, I must admit that I myself have not had the benefit of a professional formal

The CYP Diploma is capable of equipping anyone in the field of Youth Development with all the necessary thinking and expertise to achieve ... youth empowerment

training and now, after following the CYP Diploma for two months., realise how very important and relevant it is in my context in youth development.

The CYP Diploma programme is capable of providing all the basic know how, skills and professionalism, which is so essential for

youth development work. It provides a combination of courses covering practical as well as theoretical know how relating to youth empowerment. The CYP Diploma is the outcome of continued international academic co-operation between countries. It is necessary to be fully aware of the basic challenges posed by as spiritual, physical, mental and social areas in youth development in order to be capable of coping with them.

I would like to say that the CYP Diploma is capable of equipping anyone in the field of Youth Development with all the necessary thinking and expertise to achieve a projected goal like youth empowerment.

Finally it is my very personal observation that courses of this type are most essential for Sri Lanka to tackle problem in all areas, especially regarding youth and the ethnic conflict.



Introducing the new editor/s

Perri and I will be the new editors for Intercom in 2005. Perri (my daughter) will be in charge of technology – which really means putting it all together. It will be a team effort. I presently coordinate a Youth Studies degree at Victoria University. I had the opportunity to connect with the Commonwealth Youth Program when I was developing the National Competencies for Youth Work in Australia. It was a particularly enjoyable project as I had the opportunity to travel around Australia talking to youth workers and discussing what they thought were important components in the provision of training. That was in 1996 and from there I have worked with Professor David Maunders who has kept me well informed. I have also had two students, who after completing their Commonwealth Youth Program Diploma have come and studied at

Victoria University to complete their Bachelor of Arts Youth Studies. Anastasia is in this journal with a little of her story.

I currently do a range of research work on developing services for young people, including young people involved in community building activities and ensuring that young people have a voice in their community. I work with Government, community and Non- Government organisations. I am hoping that you will all share some stories and induct me into the full experience of the Commonwealth Youth Program. I am keen to talk to you about things that are happening in your program, site and/or course that everyone may want to hear about. I am sure there are lots. Perhaps you have had an important visit, or a visit that has made an impact on your program; perhaps you have worked with a program that has particular elements that have made it unusual

and worth sharing. Perhaps there are students that will want to share some of their work and/or community experiences. This newsletter is a part of a network – it is a way of sharing some information about the network. Remember there are parts of the network that are quite different and are keen to understand some of your work practices and what we can all learn from.

I am particularly keen to take some of your learnings into my classroom in Australia because I know your experience of youth development work will have much to share with us and I hope that I can also share some program experiences with you along the way. So, I can't wait to be working with you and please contact me with any of your ideas. Finally I know you will all want to thank David for his work on the newsletter – I feel like I have big shoes to fill. I will be asking for your assistance.

Robyn Broadbent.

Robyn.Broadbent@vu.edu.au

New Modules on Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa

By Vincent Monene, Institute for Continuing Education, University of South Africa.

UNISA has worked in partnership with the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives (REPSSI) which has led to the development of two region specific modules focussing on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). REPSSI is a consortium of NGOs that work with children made vulnerable by HIV/Aids, war, poverty and displacement. They advocate for policy and scaling up of psychosocial support for these children. They have a significant number of youth workers who provide psychosocial support for these children through organising residential camps and community camps for orphans.

In 2001, they approached UNISA to assist in providing capacity and skills development to the Youth and Child Workers who are working in the OVC sector. UNISA and REPSSI made an analysis of the content of the Commonwealth Diploma and came to the conclusion that the programme gives good fundamental base on Principles of Youth Work, but came short of addressing the required skills needed in the

OVC sector. There was a need to exploit the opportunities for two region specific modules provided by Commonwealth Youth Programme. We decided instead to develop two modules for a start that will focus on training practitioners in OVC. The long-term plan is to develop a degree programme that will provide training for youth work in OVC. This is a dynamic brought about by the escalation of HIV/AIDs and it indicates how this scourge is changing the nature of youth

work. The modules were developed in a collaborative way. There was change of mindset and approach in terms of product development. That old way of doing things where academics sit and lock themselves in their offices and produce a product for the market is a thing of the past in youth development. The process of the development of the two modules on OVC was inclusive and transparent. The teams comprised two OVC specialist from the field, a group of youth workers who are working in OVC on a full time, the Special Advisor of REPSSI and academics from UNISA. The modules were written by the expert practitioner,

reviewed by the youth workers wherein they gave their input and experiences which were build in the final product.

The academics from UNISA played a role of critical readers of the modules. The experience was a wonderful one and it created an ownership of the modules by the market. The outcome of the whole process was the development of two modules, which are now offered as part of the Commonwealth Diploma offered by UNISA. The one module is called Psychosocial Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and the other is called Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme Management and Policy Development. The modules are critical to be studied by youth workers and other people who work with Orphans and Vulnerable Children as a result of HIV/AIDs, War, Displacement Poverty and other Diseases.

Diploma Graduate leads International Youth Parliament Delegation

By David Maunders, with Lawrence Takalima Nodua.



A nine-person delegation from the Solomon Islands to the International Youth Parliament in Sydney, Australia, in July, was led by Lawrence Takalima Nodua. Lawrence completed his Diploma in Youth

in Development Work at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education and the delegation also included Kennedy Folasi, a current student. The IYP was attended by delegates from all parts of the world and the Solomons delegation was involved in resolutions related to HIV/AIDS, unemployment, drug trafficking and human rights. Lawrence reported that they received overwhelming support from young people from across the world for the difficulties that they faced in rebuilding after the period of ethnic tension. Delegates also had regional meetings to discuss more local issues.

Lawrence stayed in Australia to attend the Students for Sustainability Conference, held at La Trobe University in Melbourne. This conference was attended by students from Africa, Asia and other Pacific countries such as

PNG. Of particular interest to the Solomons were issues of logging and mining.

Lawrence's visit was supported by funds from AusAID (the Australian Agency for International Development) and he felt that it was extremely valuable for youth development workers in the Solomons to have contact with youth workers and students from other parts of the world. The workers and students in the Solomon Islands were beginning to develop a collaborative structure as a non-government organisation to work for improved services for young people. The violence and disruption during the period of ethnic tension was largely enacted by young people. There is a need for them to develop greater social and political understanding and to be empowered to make their own decisions and avoid manipulation by others.

The youth development workers had a problem in maintaining contact with the network that they have developed as they cannot get regular and affordable internet access. Lawrence can be contacted on nodua2004@yahoo.com.au

While he was in Melbourne, Lawrence made contact with Victoria University and hopes to undertake the BA in youth work there, if he can get sponsorship.

Send Us Your Contributions

- **Have you had a visit you want to report on.**
- **A program we all want to hear about.**
- **An important issue that needs to be heard.**
- **Tell us about your studies and your story.**
- **WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.**

Send Us Your News

Articles should normally be between 500 and 1000 words. The editor reserves the right to shorten or modify contributions to fit into the space available. Letters to the editor are also welcome and should not exceed 250 words.

Our next deadline will be the end of January 05 Material should be sent by email, or post to the addresses on this page.

Intercom is produced in pdf format which means you will need Acrobat Reader to access it. This program is avail

able on-line free of charge. Partner Institutions and CYP Regional Centres are asked to print copies for students unable to access the web. As colour photographs are included, a colour printer and copier are needed for best results.

Intercom is available from our website at www.thecommonwealth.org/cyp

(Continued from page 2)

valuable source of traditional values of family life, which had been shaping the society. But various forces such as drugs, alcoholics, and population explosions had brought about disintegration of family life.

The CYP Programme provides an insight exposure to problems associating with population and challenges involved in harnessing the increasing population for development. It lays emphasis on family life education. It draws attention on health issues, such as sexual health, drugs, nutrition and healthy living. The youth in our country had been very active

riots and the LTTE, terrorist group.

The CYP Program could
transform every facet of
youth empowerment into
a meaningful contribution
to the society

This is because the youth form the accessible energizing force for vio-

and other choices. They should be allowed to play an active role on the decision-making process pertaining to themselves. The CYP program would be helpful to develop skills in influencing policy planning processes and national youth policy.

The CYP Program could transform every facet of youth empowerment into a meaningful contribution to the society.

CYP, My Rainbow of Hope.



Diploma Country Coordinator, Ms. Sandra Cadle of Belize, at right, with Colleagues, Ms. Rosita Snagg of St Vincent and the Grenadines, at left and Ms. Simone Cartwright of the Bahamas, at centre, at a "Training of Trainers" Work-

In struggling to get out of its cocoon the butterfly wings become stronger and it gains the confidence to soar and rise above. As I reflect on my growth and development in the field of Youth in Development I can identify with the butterfly and I am thankful to the Commonwealth Youth Programme for its significant contribution in helping me to soar and rise above to meet new challenges.

I knew I wanted to make an impact in my community. I have a natural love and passion for youth work. In 1991 at age 18 I began my formal romance with the Youth Work Profession under our then Ministry of Social Development. I soon discovered that my love, dedication and passion was important but not enough. Some very effective and efficient tools were missing from my tool kit. Even though I love working with young people I did not understand them nor the process to work with them.

I can recall one of my first tasks, as a Youth Development Officer, was to organize and implement a Youth Rally. Oh! I was so enthusiastic and happy. I planned and planned; I thought of everything I believe young people would love and enjoy. I couldn't wait for the day and then it came; I was the only one at my well-planned rally. I cried and felt like a failure. Imagine experiences such as these coupled with the fact that I was shy and unassertive!

CYP was my salvation. In early 1992 I became a part of the CYP family and to date I have no regrets but gratitude. I am a graduate of the Certificate in Youth Work (1993)

and the Diploma in Youth Development (1995). I was also exposed to a number of regional training programmes and exchanges.

I was empowered. These courses and experiences have increased and expanded my capacity to provide quality service to young people. I learnt that young people should be at the centre of development. As Youth Workers we must plan with them rather than for them. I learnt that research and need assessments are critical in the development of programs. I was introduced to various theoretical frameworks, concepts and perspectives in understanding and working with young people and these informed my practice. I became an asset to my department and myself. My newly acquired skills, knowledge and competence opened the gateway for upward mobility as my quality of service was recognized. I became more assertive and confident in my abilities.

Now as I reflect on my growth and development I can vividly remember the struggles, frustrations, tears, and confusion..... but I did not quit. My love, passion and dedication were not enough but it propelled me to seek the necessary tools missing from my kit. I now urge you to take advantage of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work as we become partners in building the youth work profession.

I give THANKS as I rise and soar above my new challenges!!

Sandra Diaz- Cadle Country Coordinator, Diploma in Youth in Development Work BELIZECYP CERTIFICATE COURSE GRADUATE (1993) CYP DIPLOMA IN YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK (1995)

Belizecyp Certificate course graduate (1993) CYP Diploma

When CYP students look in the mirror!



Benefits from CYP's Advanced Training in Youth Work

Shortly after my return from Georgetown, Guyana in 1976 and having acquired the Diploma for Advanced Training in Youth Work from the Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Centre and an Endorsement Certificate from the University of Guyana, I felt thrilled to assume the role of Course Coordinator for the newly instituted Certificate Course for youth workers in the country of Belize. I felt honored and privileged to have been appointed this leadership position of Course Coordinator so soon after training. It was good that I was able to apply my skills and techniques in identifying and screening the course participants for approximately four (4) years (1977 – 1980) and also to involve a number of resource persons each year who were able to provide in-depth knowledge skills and attitudes of their specialty and area of expertise much beyond the subject matter contained in the course manual. It was a pioneering effort and an excellent opportunity to provide assistance and be involved in the development of youth in Belize.

A high point for me as a graduate and course coordinator/tutor of CYP is the cadre of successfully trained youth workers who demonstrated their skills and techniques in the field and which they acquired through lively informative sessions which utilized role play, brainstorming and dramatization. It was good to be a part of this experiential and practical approach in helping to train and develop youth and youth workers in Belize. Evidence of our improvement in this vital aspect of our development was clearly manifested in each cohort of trained youth workers who were able to lead various units and departments that involved youth.

Because I was a teacher by profession and only participated in youth work as a voluntary youth worker, I did not benefit from any direct promotion. However, the knowledge, skills and techniques that I gained through my training as a CYP trained youth worker, provided me with a wealth of knowledge and

experience in working with young people and was a tremendous boost to my courage and confidence as a teacher trainer, at the then Belize Teachers Training College, where I worked as an Assistant Lecturer. Through my intervention though, full time as well as voluntary youth workers who had successfully completed the training were recommended for promotion and/or incremental increases in salary.

A high point for me as a graduate and course coordinator/tutor of CYP is the cadre of successfully trained youth workers who demonstrated their skills and techniques in the field and which they acquired through lively informative sessions which utilized role play, brainstorming and dramatization.

I was able to acquire immeasurable experiences and interpersonal skill development through my involvement with other coordinators of the Caribbean Region at the many Coordinators' Meetings and training sessions in various Caribbean Territories. Often, I functioned as a Consultant in Youth Work for Belize and the Region.

During the 80's and the 90's, the Commonwealth Youth Program Caribbean Centre organized many exchange programs as well as several courses (Certificate and Diploma) geared to develop the skills and techniques of youth and youth workers in the re-

gion. In all such events and activities, I felt honored and pleased that I was able to facilitate by organizing and spearheading the country's programs in providing meaningful learning experiences and expertise which ultimately benefited youth and youth workers in Belize and those Caribbean territories which participated in such events and activities.

Notwithstanding the fact that I was not associated with the CYP and its programs for the latter part of the 90's, I have benefited significantly from my training, involvement and association with the Commonwealth Youth Program, Caribbean Centre in all sphere of my work as an educator and voluntary youth worker.

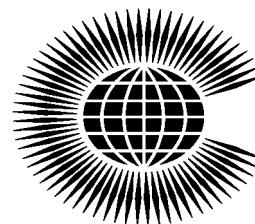
Patricia Bennett (Ms.) CYP Diploma Graduate 1976 Tutor on 2nd Offering of the Diploma which started in June 2004.

Belize

A NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAM DIPLOMA IN YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

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AND OTHERS
GRAMME
MENT WORK