



Caribbean YOUTH

Highlighting the projects and programmes of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre



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About us

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre is located in Georgetown, Guyana and is one of four Centres established to serve the member countries of the Commonwealth, spread across the globe. The Caribbean Centre serves the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada. These 18 countries together have a total population of 33.6 million people and a youth population of approximately 5.4 million.

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CYEX 2006 in BVI, Get Ready!



Mr. Robert Chalwell
Director of Youth, BVI

"Mr. Robert Chalwell, Director of Youth, BVI and his team have done a fantastic job in identifying a venue and anticipating activities that will make for a very rewarding and enjoyable Youth Exchange 2006."

She added that this youth exchange promises to be a very exciting one for all delegates. "Delegates will not only have a chance to learn about each others' culture and build rich networks, but they will have the opportunity to interact and work together with their peers as they address issues critical to their development as young people in the region," she explained.

A number of workshops and group discussions are included on the

programme to coincide with the theme, "*Sustainable Livelihoods – a Commonwealth Youth Development Challenge*" and the observance of International Youth Day on August 12, 2006.

Ms. Natoya Frett, a 2004 Youth Exchange delegate from the BVI, who is a member of the national Organising Committee, agrees that workshops are the most critical part of an Exchange. "We want to learn about and debate politics, trade, CSME and issues that affect us as young people in the Caribbean."

Topics for the workshops will include: Youth and Healthy Living; Youth Participation and Decision Making; Youth and the Environment;

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Arrangements are continuing for the staging of the Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange (CYEX) 2006 to be held at the Lambert Beach Resort, East End, Tortola, British Virgin Islands (BVI) from August 10-21, 2006.

Ms Dwynette D. Eversley, CYPCC's Programme Manager responsible for coordinating the Caribbean Youth Exchange met with the Organizing Committee in BVI from the 12 to 16 June for further discussions and to finalise arrangements for the staging of the event.

Ms Eversley said that she is pleased with the progress made thus far by the Organizing Committee.



100% Support! Programme Manager, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley poses with the Hon. Lloyd Black, Minister of Education & Culture, BVI and Ms. Julia Christopher, Permanent Secretary after a successful meeting.

Editorial Time to rebuild the Students' Movement



Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director

On November 17, 2006 International Students' Day will be commemorated by hundreds of student movements around the world.

It is an occasion when the international students' movement engages in various forms of educational and mass-based activities to highlight issues affecting students, young people and victims of social and economic exclusion.

Unfortunately, within recent times, with the exception of a very successful students rally hosted last year by the National Students body and facilitated by the National Youth Development Agency of Jamaica, the commemoration of this important international event has become non-existent in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

One factor which may very well be responsible for this new reality is the relative weakness and in many instances non-existence of vibrant national and regional student bodies.

We can speculate on the reasons for the apparent decline but one thing is certain, the non-existence of a vibrant student's movement is indeed a major setback for the Commonwealth Caribbean.

It is most instructive that during the same period we have witnessed the decline of the student's movement we are experiencing a spiraling increase in school based violence and other manifestations of anti-social behavior.

Are we oblivious to the sterling contributions that vibrant and organized student movements have made to the development and democratization of education worldwide? Have we forgotten the invaluable contribution made by the South African and International Student movement in the overthrow of the Apartheid regime?

Are we unaware of the Herculean

efforts of student movements in the North American civil rights movement and in the removal of repressive regimes in Latin America?

In our own Commonwealth Caribbean the students' movement has provided our communities and societies with a cadre of competent political, economic, social and cultural leaders. Many political leaders in Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, and Jamaica crafted their leadership and advocacy skills during their involvement in the students' movement.

Prestigious regional development institutions such as the Caribbean Community Secretariat, Caribbean Development Bank, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank have all benefited from the expertise of individuals who "cut their leadership teeth" in the students' movement.

Many other leading cultural activists, grass root and community leaders in the Caribbean emerged from the students' movements. It is sad, yet true, that despite all these achievements we seem oblivious to the decline of the students' movement and the consequential impact on national development.

Young people have been constantly clamoring for a greater say in national governance and nation-building. They want to have their views reflected in the way that governments are making decisions on the economy, the environment, education and social development, and global partnerships and trade arrangements. Many development agencies, including the CYP recognize that youth voices must be acknowledged and be part of policies and have made provision for this in their governance processes. The Students' Movement is a natural and accepted mechanism whereby young men and women can be architects and agents of social change. Is it not time to rebuild students' movement in the Commonwealth Caribbean?

Perhaps we should declare International Students Day on November 17th 2006, the start of the rebuilding process for students' movement in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

YWET Programme Manager, Glenyss James addresses 'Kicking out AIDS' Training Session in Guyana

In a declaration from the just concluded Special Meeting of the CARICOM Council for Human and



Ms. Glenyss James

Social Development (COHSOD) held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 9-10 June 2006 it was noted that "the region is facing an unprecedented human catastrophe with a total of 300,000 persons living with HIV, 30,000 of whom became infected in 2005. The disease is the highest cause of death in persons 15-44 years in the Caribbean and the prevalence rate for women 15-34 years is at least twice as high that of men of similar age". This should be of

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Sustainable Livelihoods – Youth in the Global Village – Exploring Globalisation; CSME; Trade Agreements; Governance; Money Management & Investment; Youth and Employment and Youth Enterprise Development.

Opportunities to meet the wider community will be offered through community service and outreach programmes. Delegates will visit a home for the aged and an orphanage, attend a local church service and take part in a Caribbean community cook-out. In addition, the delegates will take on BVI youth in sporting matches organized with local youth clubs.

As a customary feature of every Youth Exchange, each delegation will showcase the culture and history of their country at the regular Delegates

Culture Nights.

The best cultural performance will receive an award. Other awards judged by the delegates themselves will be handed out at the Gala Night on August 20.

"We can't let all these young people come to the BVI and not experience our rich marine heritage", says Robert Chalwell, Director of Youth. As such, the Organising Committee has planned a special BVI Day Sail where youth delegates will have the chance to see other islands in the BVI chain. "Safety at sea and marine survival skills are very important," added Mr. Chalwell. "So we have also put in these as part of the Exchange Programme."

Sweet memories of CYEX 2004 in Trinidad and Tobago



Grenada's Minister of Youth discusses Youth Development Initiatives on the Spice Island



The Hon. Emmalin Pierre
Minister of Youth Development,
Grenada

Minister Emmalin Pierre has represented the young people of Grenada at the local, regional and international levels including participating in a number of workshops and seminars around the Commonwealth. She served as Executive Member of the Caribbean Regional Youth Caucus and was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group present at the Nigerian elections in April 2003. Minister Pierre also represented CYP at the Youth in Politics Conference held in the UK in 2002, and was part of a delegation of Caribbean youth who attended the Youth Enterprise Development Forum in Australia in November 2003. She was also responsible for starting the first Commonwealth Youth Club in Grenada and the Caribbean region.

Minister Pierre led the Grenada delegation at the recently concluded 6th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting which was held from May 23 to 26th in Nassau, The Bahamas.

Natalie Yearwood, CYPCC's Communications and Public Affairs Intern spoke with the Honourable Minister.

Natalie: What is the biggest issue facing youth in Grenada?

Minister Pierre: The biggest issue facing youth in Grenada is unemployment. Another major challenge is the involvement of young people in activities that are not positive.

Natalie: As a Minister of Youth, what do you think should be done to better address the needs of young people in Grenada?

Minister Pierre: In Grenada, we have come a long way in a very short time. The political will as it relates to youth development and the commitment of the government in placing youth center stage is very critical. In the absence of that, I don't think you can have good or successful youth development programmes. There is need for the political will and for governments to recognise the importance of placing youth center stage. In Grenada, we are definitely going in that direction where we are placing youth at the fore front of youth development.

Natalie: What are some of the innovative youth programmes being run in Grenada?

Minister Pierre: We have implemented a number of new initiatives and programmes targeting young people. We have undertaken three major initiatives. The **Grenada Youth Enterprise Initiative**, as promoted by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre, provides up to ten thousand dollars to young people to start up small businesses. Young entrepreneurs are trained in small business development and management before they receive financial assistance. We also provide them with support services and systems following the start up of the business. Already we are seeing many more young people showing interest in small business development. This programme is really youth-focused and friendly and saves young people from the challenges of approaching financial institutions for business loans.

We also have another major programme that is the **Imani Programme**. Imani is an African word which means *faith in god*,

faith in self and faith in others. This programme intends to engage approximately two thousand young people this year. It seeks to occupy young people by providing on the job skills training and learning opportunities for them. Both the public and private sectors are part of this job attachment programme which engages young people for a period of two years; they are in receipt of a monthly salary of EC \$700. Many of the high performers are offered permanent jobs on completion; those who are not fortunate to obtain a permanent job right away, would have acquired experience and basic skills which will make them more marketable.

The third initiative provides support to young parents and is called the Young Parents Support Programme (YPSP). We believe that a lot of social problems stem from the lack of good parenting skills and this programme was designed to help develop the parenting skills and value system of young parents. It also provides opportunities for academic upgrading and skills training. Our

Ministry feels strongly that programmes which provide for the holistic development of young people impact positively on national development.

Natalie: How are these programmes impacting on youth development in Grenada?

Minister Pierre: They are impacting positively on national development in a number of ways, although there is criticism from some quarters that too much emphasis is being placed on youth. That, for me, as Youth Minister, is positive- even though it is a negative comment. It shows that youth development is on the front burner and that people are aware of the priority we place on youth development.

Natalie: How do young people view these initiatives?

Minister Pierre: The young people are very appreciative of the many opportunities available to them. In my capacity as a Minister of Youth Development, I have been encouraging them to make full use of these opportunities.

CYPCC says thanks

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) expressed its appreciation to three CYP staff members at the recent Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) held in the Bahamas.

During the presentation, CYPCC's Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles emphasised youth work is serious business. "It requires dedication, commitment and a high level of courage to impact positively on the lives of young people. In the field of youth development work criticisms are many but praise seldom," he noted. CYPCC takes the opportunity to recognise the tireless efforts and contributions made by these individuals in ensuring that the

values and ideas of youth development in the Commonwealth remain alive.

The Regional director said "We are pleased and indeed grateful with the role and contributions you have made to our own advancement at the Caribbean Center".

Those honoured were: Mr. Ignatius Takawira, Director, Youth Affairs Division; Mr. Andrew Simmons, Deputy Director, Youth Affairs Division and Ms Cristal de Saldanha Stainbank, Youth Advisor, Youth Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Regional Director and Staff of the CYP Caribbean Centre wish our colleagues all the best in their future endeavours.

Reflections on the CYP Diploma by Chandrika Persaud Mohanlall and Rajmonie Mohanlall of Guyana

The Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development Work commenced in May, 2003 and concluded in September, 2005. We started this programme with nostalgia and much optimism. Being teachers for over twenty five years, we have developed a great love for children and young people as a whole. We have seen a great number of our country's young people getting themselves involved in activities that are detrimental to their proper growth and development. This pained us deeply for we know that they have the potential to play meaningful roles in our country.

We believe that if all these young people can be productively occupied and their creative energies harnessed and developed, our country will be a far better, safer and wonderful place to live.

We recognise that our vocation of teaching and occasionally giving guidance and counselling to some of our young people were not enough. These approaches were insufficient to create a positive impact in the lives of our young people. There was a need to get a more systematic approach to youth development in our community. To do this we saw the need for specialised training which will equip us with the necessary skills and knowledge to deal with youth development per se objectively and productively.

The Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development Work provided this opportunity. We first learnt about this programme when nine students of the Pilot programme graduated in November, 2002.

We were overjoyed to be accepted to this programme, our acceptance was a real achievement for us. We now will be able to develop the skills and knowledge to help our many young people who figuratively are crying out for help and not finding it. Secondly, we will be fulfilling our dream of attending classes at the University of Guyana for we were unable to do this before because of serious financial constraints.

The orientation for prospective students was held on May, 9, 2003 at the University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus in Georgetown.

The presentations made gave us an in-depth insight into the programme and provided clarifications required by participants.

The course of study demanded that we successfully complete thirteen modules. The training modules were compiled by persons who work with young people from different Commonwealth countries. Even though we had to do research and supplementary reading during our studies, the training modules were of a great help to us in doing our assignments, journals and examinations.

Distance learning was not new to us for we had completed a course in Supervisory Management by distance education. In fact, the distance education was very convenient for us. Many of our colleagues were not so fortunate and encountered difficulties that forced many of them to discontinue the programme.

The preparation of a learning contract was new to us. At the beginning we had difficulty in understanding how it was done. Fortunately for us, our tutors were supportive and very helpful and we were able to overcome this difficulty.

The first two modules that we did were done by Miss Paulette Henry. Ms. Henry was a remarkable lecturer and teacher. Her strategies and methodology were wonderful. She made us feel comfortable and created an atmosphere that was conducive to learning.

This wonderful voyage of youth development that she started was ably supported by Ms. Barbra Thomas Holder, Professor Allan Persico and other lecturers who were very patient, considerate and understanding with all the students.

Additionally, it was a refreshing experience to know a person like Ms. Elaine Thomas. She was very helpful and supportive to all students. She provided us with handouts, booklets and supplementary information which helped us tremendously in our studies. She was always ready to encourage us and did her utmost to ensure we successfully complete the course.

The camaraderie in our class was amazing. We did not see our ethnicity,

rather we saw ourselves, first and foremost as Guyanese, working together to the successful completion of our course of study; working together to prepare ourselves to help our young people and our country.

This course of study was very interesting and informative. It was well planned and effectively executed. We are now more equipped

and well prepared to deal with the challenges of youth work.

This diploma is a worthwhile investment and we would recommend that the course be ongoing and developed into a Degree programme. Efforts must be made to involve all youth workers and those who are concerned about youth development.



Chandrika and Rajmonie Mahanlall third and fourth from left, with other Diploma Graduates from Guyana.

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great concern to you as peer educators and makes your contribution to the process of eradicating HIV/AIDS more urgent.

You have committed three days of your time to this Peer Leadership programme, the purpose of which is to "give young persons who have experience in peer education the opportunity to document the impact of sport in their lives and their ability to internalize HIV/AIDS education and prevention messaging using sport as a development tool". This initiative will also create a platform for sharing of lessons learned and best practices. Furthermore you will offer recommendations on how existing Kicking AIDS Out! training methodologies can be gender analyzed, resulting in an increasingly gender sensitive delivery mechanism. This places a lot of responsibility on your shoulders but I am sure you are fully aware that the reason peer education has been such an integral part of the fight against HIV/AIDS is

because it is generally accepted that –

1. Effective peer educators are considered to be more credible than adult educators.
2. Peer counselors produce greater attitude changes in teens' perception of personal risk of HIV infection.
3. Adolescents who are counseled by peers are more likely to engage in interactive discussion.

(www.advocatesforyouth.org)

You will be sharing your experiences and best practices and discussing training methodologies over the next few days and I would like to encourage you to be honest about your personal shortcomings and the positives and negatives of your peer education initiatives. This is absolutely crucial for the appropriate design of future interventions. Numerous well planned and costly interventions have not had the desired outcomes but have been used as stepping stones to the success of subsequent endeavours. Give this your best shot!

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St. Lucia's Youth Enterprise Development Programme to receive support



Dr. Siddharta Sankar Dash
CSAP Micro-Enterprise Expert

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) in collaboration with BELfund, a national agency which manages the youth enterprise programme for young men and women in Saint Lucia, concluded its third Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) programme on June 2, 2006 in St. Lucia.

According to Marcellus Joseph, General Manager of BELfund, "this has been the most successful programme to date". The programme, which started in May,

trained a number of young people in Small Business Management and Personal Development as prerequisites for loan approval to start up their own businesses.

Neil Serieux and Fabian Isaac of the BELfund and Barry Paul of the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) facilitated the Small Business Management training.

Participants also benefited from the expertise of Saint Lucia's Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU) and the Registrar of Companies and Intellectual Properties which provided practical pointers on the legal requirements for owning and setting up a business.

"We got some excellent focus with all these sessions," reported Mr. Joseph. "But things got very animated for the personal development." The Personal Development Programme is geared at helping young people to explore their wider self development and explore and improve personal issues that may impact upon their success as business men and women. Participants usually discuss the

families they come from, gender issues and how they impact upon business and self-esteem concerns.

"We had some very heated debate on gender and the role of women and men and how stereotypes can make or break a business, even a person. Obviously, it is critical for young people to talk about the things that they may have been considering can hinder them from being successful in their careers, whatever path they choose", said Mrs. Marva Bancroft, a long-standing Consultant Trainer with CYPCC who has been with the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative since its inception and who was on hand to conduct one-on-one reviews of business projects submitted by the participants.

The prospective business owners were also required to prepare a graphic representation showing where they see themselves and their businesses in five years.

On the final day a motivational talk was given by Ms. Merliza Solomon, a graduate of the 2nd phase of the Saint Lucia Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF).

Mr. Joseph said that the 3rd phase of the Programme was very encouraging but emphasised the need for better marketing of the programme in Saint Lucia.

CYPCC's Programme Manager Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley commented that, "Marketing is a key concern and we will meet with the BELfund to improve on our marketing for all young people in Saint Lucia, not just for Castries. Getting people to overcome fears and skepticism about owning and operating their own businesses is still a challenge for us. This may be as a result of our socialization and what can be termed a 'conditioned reluctance' to entrepreneurship. It is clear we need to start exploding myths and fears from early. One solution is to introduce school children to entrepreneurship that is sensitive to our own Caribbean culture and over time we hope to see evidence of change."

Ms. Eversley revealed that the YEDF programme and enterprise development in Saint Lucia is currently benefiting from the assignment of CSAP micro-enterprise expert Dr Siddharta Sankar Dash who

is attached to the Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer from July to December 2006. Dr. Dash is supporting the Government of Saint Lucia with dedicated enterprise development targets for young people and for other select groups.

Outgoing US Ambassador to Guyana lauds CYPCC's Work

Outgoing United States Ambassador to Guyana, Mr. Roland Bullen lauded the work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC).

In a letter dated June 20, 2006, Mr. Bullen said it was indeed a pleasure to work with the CYPCC during his post as US Ambassador to Guyana. "I greatly admire the vision and goals for youth development that the CYPCC works so hard to put into practice," Ambassador Bullen said.

Farewell to friends

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) has expressed appreciation to two long standing friends, Mr. Roland Bullen, the United States Ambassador to Guyana and Mr. Stephen Hiscock, British High Commissioner to Guyana, whose tours of duty in Guyana have come to an end.

In letters to the envoys, CYPCC's Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles thanked them for their support during their term in Office.

"You have been a true friend to the CYPCC and though your camaraderie and inspiration will be sorely missed, we take solace in the hope that you shall be showered with divine blessings and guidance in your future endeavours," Mr. Charles noted.

Monthly Lecture Series to be launched in September

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre will be launching a monthly Lecture Series in September to coincide with the observance of Caribbean Youth Day on September 30, 2006.

The primary objective of the series is to influence the youth development policy environment in the Commonwealth, with particular emphasis on the Caribbean, through informed debate and discourse on youth development issues. The series will seek to engage eminent youth

leaders, policy makers, academics and intellectuals from across the Caribbean.

It is hoped that each month one of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries will host the lecture under the auspices of the CYPCC and the relevant Ministry/Youth department. The host country will be responsible for identifying the appropriate speaker and for making the necessary arrangements for publicity and media coverage.

Successful Planning Session held

Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) recently held a successful two-day planning session on the 29 to 30 June at the Roraima Residence Inn, Guyana to streamline its operational plan for the 2006-2007 programme year.

The meeting fine tuned the allocation of resources in accordance with the mandates given by the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) meeting held in October, 2005 in St. Kitts and the recently concluded Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) in the Bahamas.

The planning session formulated a CYPCC work plan for the period July to December 2006. Among the projects to be implemented are the consolidation of a partnership arrangement with the Commonwealth of Learning on the professionalization of youth work; a capacity building workshop for the Regional Youth Caucus (RYC); a project focusing on unattached youth to be developed by the RYC; and a follow up workshop for Commonwealth Caribbean Directors of Youth.

The work plan also includes the upcoming Commonwealth

Caribbean Youth Exchange in Tortola, BVI in August; the introduction of the Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living (CYPL) programme in St. Lucia, Dominica and possibly Trinidad and Tobago; technical support in areas of leadership and capacity building to Anguilla, Antigua and the Cayman Islands; the launching of a Youth Lecture Series in September; the development of a Strategic Marketing Plan for CYPCC; publication of a quarterly Journal; and conducting a resource and capacity audit of Ministries of Youth and other youth development agencies in collaboration with CARICOM and other stakeholders.

Attending the meeting were, the Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles; Programme Managers, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley and Ms. Glenyss James; Regional Youth Caucus Chairman, Mr. Norman Gilbert; Office Manager, Ms. Cherrell Semple; Information Officer, Mr. Robert Bazil and Accountant, Ms. Maxine Bradford.

A follow up meeting will be held in November 2006 to evaluate the July-December work plan and formulate another for the period January – June 2007.

Regional Director to address Duke of Edinburgh Conference

The Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) Mr. Henry Charles will address the America's Regional Conference of the Duke of Edinburgh Award to be held on July 20–21, 2006 in Antigua.

Mr. Charles will present CYP's perspective on the "Competency skills required for Youth Workers."

Other presentations will

address topics such as Gang Violence in Society and the Juvenile System among other youth related issues.

The conference will be followed by the annual general meeting of the Caribbean Awards Scheme Council and the start of the annual Adventurous Journey for Young People.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Royal Antiguan Beach Resort.

Youth Development stakeholders meeting for mid-July

A meeting to discuss the establishment of a coordinating mechanism to facilitate closer collaboration between CYPCC, CARICOM and other youth development stakeholders in the region will take place in mid July, in St. Lucia.

The meeting is being held in response to mandates given at a number of meetings held by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), CARICOM and other youth development stakeholders in the region. These meetings include CYP's Regional Advisory

Board (RAB) Meeting; and the Commonwealth Youth Minister Meeting (CYMM); CARICOM Council on Human and Social Development.

Apart from the coordinating mechanism, the forum will allow for greater sharing of information on programmes and activities for implementation in the region. Participants will also address ways in which they can consolidate their work to optimise the limited resources available. One such venture is the establishment of a yearly calendar of youth development activities.

CYPCC to participate in 'Don't Dis Me' Concert and Exhibition

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) has been invited to participate in a Stigma and Discrimination Regional Expansion Initiative 'Don't Dis Me Concert and Exhibition' in the county of Berbice in Guyana.

The concert, which is a joint venture by the USAID/Guyana and HIV/AIDS Reduction and Prevention Project (GHARP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, is being held to create an enabling environment and foundation to spread the message against stigma and discrimination.

The exhibition and concert are expected to stimulate and generate discussions aimed at reducing the level of stigma and discrimination against

affected and infected persons and families living in Guyana. The activities will be held at the J.C Chandisingh Secondary School compound and at the Corriverton Municipal Market on July 15 and 22, 2006 respectively.

CYPCC's participation includes an exhibition booth which will focus on disseminating pertinent information on HIV/AIDS and open group discussions on positive living. Brochures and other relevant Commonwealth materials on HIV/AIDS will be distributed to members of the public. The Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living (CYPL), Guyana are expected to facilitate the group discussions.

Diploma in Youth Development Work

Approximately 133 students from 12 Caribbean countries (see table below) are currently writing final examinations in the Diploma in Youth Development Work through the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, bringing an end to two years of rigorous studies using the supported distance methodology. Students will be examined in the remaining 6 Modules having completed studies in 7 modules last year.

Results of examinations and resits will be available by early August 2006.

The design of the Associate Degree has been completed and

CYPCC will be engaging tertiary institutions in the Caribbean, in discussions to explore the possibility of these institutions offering the Diploma, Associate Degree and Undergraduate Degree in Youth Development Work.

Competency Standards

CYPCC continues to provide assistance to member countries in the holding of national consultations on the Competency Standards for Youth Work. Preliminary discussions on the design of the curriculum framework with HEART Trust NTA, Jamaica and the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada are ongoing.

Countries	No. of students
Bahamas	4
Barbados	12
Belize	12
British Virgin Islands	10
Cayman Islands	4
Dominica	14
Grenada	5
Jamaica	11
Montserrat	6
St. Lucia	15
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	13
Trinidad (18) and Tobago (9)	27
Total	133

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I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you with your continued individual peer education initiatives after you leave this workshop. Your peers are making unhealthy choices every day and I have been informed that some peer educators themselves are making unwise choices. We need people with passion who will not only hope and dream of a day when our young people will make informed and healthy choices, using their God given talents, strengths and available resources for their personal development and that of their country, but people who will work the dream and contribute to the dramatic decline of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

As an HIV/AIDS peer educator can you say that you are passionate about seeing the decline in the incidence of HIV/AIDS? Are you passionate enough about the devastating effects of unwise choices and unhealthy lifestyles? What drives you in your peer education work? If

you are each convinced and passionate enough about what you are educating others about you can start a quiet revolution with your words and lifestyle. Do not doubt the power and influence you have.

“Numerous well planned and costly interventions have not had the desired outcomes but have been used as stepping stones to the success of subsequent endeavours.”

There are a lot of examples in history of the power and influence of one. One of the most influential was Christ who had 12 disciples whom he influenced so greatly that they embraced his teachings and many continued to spread his message after he had departed. Mother Theresa was

CYPCC e-journal far and wide

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) has been receiving commendation on its latest youth development venture – the quarterly e-journal *Caribbean Youth Development*.

In a correspondence dated June 22, 2006 Mr. Agejo Patrick of the University of Yaounde in Cameroon said “I appreciate the wonderful initiative and congratulate you on the production of this very necessary publication. Your e-journal is a good medium for youth development and sustainable development within the Commonwealth.”

Mr. Patrick has also requested that the university be added to our mailing list to receive regular publications of the e-journal and our monthly e-newsletter *Caribbean Youth Vibes*.

so passionate about reaching the dying found on the streets of India that she provided assistance to them daily and founded a Home for the dying; but her caring actions for those who were dying and her words of concern touched the hearts of others, some of whom became followers, thus forming the Missionaries of Charity which now serves in a number of countries around the world.

Mahatma Gandhi who said “you must be the change you wish to see in the world” firmly believed in a non violent response and fought passionately against the exploitation of workers and peasants leading by example and adhering to the concept of a non-violent response throughout his life. His philosophy of non-violence would go on to directly influence Martin Luther King, Jr. and the American civil rights movement, as well as many other nonviolent struggles throughout the world. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream and inspired and rallied the black people of 1960's America and gave them a dream to pin their hopes on.

In these examples it was obvious that there was passion, commitment and zeal in their actions. Their speech and their actions made it clear where their hearts were and they inspired many, bringing dramatic relief to

Up-coming Events

July, 2006 - Grenada's Youth Month

August 10-21, 2006 - Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange, 2006, Tortola, British Virgin Islands

September, 2006
Launching of Youth Lecture Series

September 24-30, 2006 Antigua & Barbuda's National Youth Week

September 30, 2006 - Caribbean Youth Day

November 17, 2006
 International Students Day

those for whom they fought. What is driving you as a peer educator? What do your peers see and hear from you...what's your dream, vision and hope? What will be your legacy? Ponder on these things!

Finally, I challenge you today in the words of Mahatma Gandhi “**You must be the change you wish to see in the world**” and those of Mother Theresa “**It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing, it is not how much we give, but how much love we put in giving.**” Let your heart, words and behaviour speak so loudly that your peers will hear you and follow your example. It is only then “Each one Reach one” will be effective and HIV/AIDS kicked out of the region. God bless your time together and may you bear much fruit.

You can contribute!

CYPCC welcomes your contributions for the next issue of our quarterly e-journal, **Caribbean Youth Development**.

Please email your articles to rbazil@cypcaribbean.org

Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange 2006 Planning Meeting photos



P o e t r y C o r n e r

Jesus is the Answer

by Jason Rubaine

Jesus is the answer for the world
today.
Above Him there's no other; Jesus
is the way.
Jesus is the answer for all the world
today.
Above Him there's no other; Jesus
is the way.
Well one thing with me I am a
Christian man.
I try to take serious my salvation.
Jesus died on a cross for my
redemption.
One GOD I serve that is the
Almighty One.
And if I ever let HIM down that is a
serious thing.
That's why I try to stay away from
sin.
But some people don't like that;
they want me do wrong.
That's why I want you help me sing
this song.
Well I listen to the news on TV and
radio.
Some people get confused but
there's one thing I know,
That following GOD is the right way
to go;
HE will fill the void that you feel like
nothing else can;
Material things, financial wealth
won't bring salvation!
Some people have fame but they
still feel ashamed.
They take happiness and try to put
on a price,
But you can't be really happy til you
have Jesus Christ!
Well war and violence, pestilence,
and famine,
When I hear these things I wonder
if I'm dreaming!
A man beat his wife until she turned
black and blue.
There's only one hope for me and
one hope for you.
Give your life to GOD, worship in
spirit and truth.
Don't cut no style and don't play
cute.
Read your Bible everyday, weekly
fast and pray
And I know that GOD will help you
along the narrow way.

My GOD

by Jason Rubaine

My GOD is not a God of
partiality.
I know HE loves you and
I know HE loves me.
Whether you from St.
Kitts or you from Italy,
Whether you from
Dominica or you from
Germany,
Whether you very
large, or you very
skinny,
Whether you very tall
or you very tiny,
Whether you light skin
or you dark like me,
It don't matter to HIM
because HE love all ah
we.

**Any poems
or short stories?**

Publish them here!
You can e-mail them to
nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org

Give us the Vibes!

Let us know about youth
activities and developments
in your country.