



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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CYP signs key youth declaration



Mr Andrew Simmons

Acting Director of Youth Affairs of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) in the Pan-Commonwealth Office, Mr. Andrew Simmons, signed a key declaration at the recently concluded World Youth Summit in Mexico.

The main objective of the World Youth Declaration is to generate a convergence in seeking strategies that allow youth access to full development. The declaration is also intended to play an active role in global youth development taking into account various stages of development and socio-economic conditions.

The declaration will address youth issues such as access to education, employment, poverty, health, sustainable development, violence and youth delinquency, gender, culture, urbanisation and participation in politics.

Mr. Simmons, in a statement at the closing ceremony, called for an increased level of urgency in addressing youth issues by the major development agencies such as, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations.

He urged other organisations to join hands with the CYP to build a

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CYEX 2006 wraps up on successful note in the BVI

The Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange (CYEX 2006), which brought together approximately 90 young people from different Caribbean countries for 11 days of interaction, workshops and adventure, wrapped up in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) on August 21 with organisers and delegates a like receiving high praise



Some delegates enjoying a boat cruise

people, who had formed a bond and developed lasting friendships as a result of living, sharing and learning together for more than a week, had to say goodbye to each other at the Lambert Beach Resort in Tortola.

CYEX was sponsored by the Government of the BVI and the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC).

At the end of CYEX, the much anticipated awards for excellence in various categories were announced. Ms Jadia Jn Pierre of St Lucia

for the huge success of the forum. It was an emotional evening at the Gala Night on August 20 as the young

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See CYEX'06 Supplement Inside

Paradigm shift needed in Guyana's Youth Development Strategy Editorial



Mr. Henry Charles,
Regional Director, CYPC

There is a compelling case for the Guyana Government to consider the revision and remodeling of the country's youth development strategy.

Guyana, like many other Commonwealth countries, is confronted with serious youth development challenges. These include unemployment and underemployment and all its related consequences, the ravages of HIV and AIDS, alarming rates of increase in crime, violence and juvenile delinquency, other forms of anti-social behavior and a pervasive climate of despair and hopelessness.

Successive governments have attempted to address these issues by undertaking various programmes and activities such as national youth service in all its varied forms, youth entrepreneurship schemes, youth award projects, youth training and skills development projects. Various development agencies including the Commonwealth Youth Programme, CIDA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank and others have also contributed significantly to the youth development agenda.

However, any qualitative improvement in Guyana's youth development landscape demands a paradigm shift in approach to youth development.

The new government must consider among other strategies the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Youth Development. It must engage all its development partners and youth development stakeholders in an urgent effort to revamp existing youth development

plans and proceed to formulate a Strategic Youth Development Plan.

The proposed Strategic Youth Development Plan must be aligned to Guyana's broader national development vision, goals and objectives. It must include a clearly defined vision, goals and objectives and achievable outcomes. This strategic plan will among other benefits provide a credible and enabling environment for strategic partnerships in youth development. It will facilitate a more efficient use of resources and provide an effective framework for the much needed transformation of the youth development landscape.

Additionally it will provide government with a powerful tool to measure performance and enhance accountability.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPC) is convinced that if the new government adopts the concept of formulating and implementing a Strategic Youth Development plan, the extent of technical, human resource and financial support it receives from traditional and non-traditional partners to execute its youth development strategy should be enhanced.

Further, while the adoption of this paradigm shift will benefit youth in particular it will also contribute to the transformation of Guyana's entire socio-economic landscape.

CYPC is extremely appreciative for the support it continues to receive from the Government and people of Guyana and further, remains strongly committed to forging effective partnerships with government and other stakeholders in an effort to enhance Guyana's youth development strategy.

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Youth Work Consultations held in Turks and Caicos



Ms. Glenyss James
Programme Manager,
Youth Work Education &
Training

The National Consultations for Competency Standards in Youth Development Work was held in the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Teachers Resource Centre, Department of Education, from August 15 to 19, 2006.

The sessions were facilitated by Ms Glenyss James, Programme Manager, Youth Work Education and Training at the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre, with assistance from Ms Angela Forbes, National Youth Director, Department of Youth Affairs.

The feature address was delivered by Ms James, who noted that "so often public figures refer to youth as the leaders of tomorrow but statistics and current developments in the region are putting that remark to the test".

"HIV/AIDS, crime and unemployment statistics show youths as the current leaders. If we are indeed concerned about this downward spiral it is crucial that we embark on the development processes which will guarantee the kind of society we want; the developmental seeds we sow now we will reap later".

Ms James remarked that as part of its contribution to the national development of nations within the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Youth Programme, as pioneers in the Commonwealth on youth development issues, has since 1974 been providing training for youth development workers around the Commonwealth.

"In recent years CYP has been encouraging governments to move towards an approach to youth development which sees young

people as having rights to development and assets to their countries. Consequently support is being provided to governments to embark upon a robust process of designing and implementing national youth policies which show that youth development is central to national development," she stated.

Ms Forbes, in some remarks, said she was pleased and excited about the development of the standards and the efforts being made by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre.

"I am even more proud that the Department of Youth Affairs is among the Youth Departments in the region that is progressing and moving ahead in youth work...the development of these standards by our very own Caribbean people means that we will offer our youth workers quality training through quality institutions in our own respective territories that will address the needs of our young people as it simultaneously addresses the needs of our growing nation,".

Also making remarks was Mrs. Sonia Williams, Under Secretary in the Ministry of Education who emphasized the Relevance of Standards to Youth Work.

Participants were drawn from various sectors throughout the community totaling 17 (seventeen) persons in all. Of this number a core group was selected to perform the role of group leaders. A briefing session was held on the afternoon preceding the consultations. These persons were briefed on the purpose for the standards, its usefulness and their role in the sessions for the next two days.

The participants were then sectioned into four working groups and given clusters of the sessions to review and make recommendations. These recommendations were then presented by each group and discussed in the wider group.

The recommendations that were made and approved by the team of participants will be submitted in a report to CYPC for consideration in the final draft of competencies.

World Youth Summit commends CYP's work - important linkages forged

The profile of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) recently received a significant boost following its participation in the World Youth Summit sponsored by the Youth Institute of Nevo Leon, Mexico, from August 10 to 11.

The World Youth Summit is an international event that seeks to create dialogue, an interchange of experiences, knowledge and visions and find possible solutions through public policies within the framework of a wider order.

CYP was represented by Mr. Andrew Simmons, Acting Director of Youth Affairs and Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director, CYP Caribbean Centre. The European Youth Council, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank were among the other participating organizations.

The summit sought to discuss the challenges facing young people in the world today such as poverty, access to education, environment, health including HIV/AIDS, participation of youth from Central and Latin America, North America and Europe among other places.

Mr. Simmons briefed the meeting on the work of CYP highlighting the revision of the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) and the development of the Youth Development Index. He posited that as a leading and trusted partner in the



Mr. Andrew Simmons and Mr. Henry Charles at the World Youth Summit in Mexico.

global youth development arena, CYP is committed to working with other youth development agencies.

Mr. Charles, in a presentation entitled *Redefining the Youth Development Agenda: Empowerment for Youth Development*, restated the challenges facing young people, noting that the social welfarist approach by many governments in this hemisphere was inadequate and irrelevant. According to him, as a result of the application of

an irrelevant approach to youth development, in the face of the many challenges being experienced by young people, national development in those countries is seriously being undermined.

"What you are seeing is a great number of young people being socially excluded, the proliferation of criminal and violent activity among youth, increased risky behaviour and the spread of HIV...against this background there is a need for a

paradigm shift from a social welfarist approach to youth development to a transformational approach," Mr. Charles said.

He called for a firm commitment to evidence and asset-based approaches to youth development, pointing out that it should be recognized that young people have rights. The CYPCC Regional Director stressed the need for countries to, apart from having youth policies and statements of intent, seek to develop a strategic youth development plan which will incorporate clear goals, visions, specific objectives, clear and definable outcomes and credible tools to measure the successes.

The transformational approach is said to allow for linkages between the youth development strategy and the national development strategy so that one fits into the other. This model promises an improvement in the socio-economic environment in countries.

The forum was urged to recognize that the Caribbean region has the option of deteriorating into laboratories of hopelessness, despair and misery or it can decide to elevate its societies to cradles of creativity and sustainable development. "The deciding factor is for us to adopt this strategic approach to youth development by way of a

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Pan-Commonwealth Chair attends launching of the World Bank Development Report



Mr. Mobafa Baker

Pan- Commonwealth Chair, Mr. Mobafa Baker was in London on Sept 11 attending the launching of the World Bank Development Report 2007 entitled *'Development and the Next Generation'*.

The report looks at issues facing the developing world's 1.3 billion young people, and urges governments to adopt youth-friendly policies which will result in major gains in economic growth and contribute to poverty reduction.

Mobafa was one of the main discussants at the presentation of the Report.

Programme Manager on PAYE Assignment

Programme Manager responsible for Governance, Development and Youth Networks at the CYP Caribbean Centre, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley was on assignment at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London assisting in the finalisation of the 2006-2015 Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE).

The PAYE aims to help governments create enabling conditions for the empowerment of their youth population. It articulates basic principles of youth empowerment and offers a range of policy options from which

governments can choose the most appropriate conditions in their own countries.

Among Ms Eversley's tasks were the preparation of a website feature on the new PAYE 2006-2015 which will serve as an ongoing promotion and the compilation of a 'how to do it' toolkit for the PAYE.

The new PAYE also provides guidelines on indicators, partnerships, youth involvement in practice and templates for evaluation and monitoring.

An electronic version of the PAYE will be available for download via the internet by all stakeholders.

Founder and Manager of the BARCAM gives advice on successful entrepreneurship



Mr. Selvyn Lewis

In September 1988 when Selvyn C. Lewis, Bevon Edwards, Dexter Jeffrey, Jason Sylvester and Davon Felix ascended to the Fourth Form level of the Point Fortin Senior Secondary School in Trinidad and Tobago, close friendships amongst them were forged. They formed an organisation called Daddy Pompey and the CIA Crew. The essential goal behind "Daddy Pompey and the CIA Crew" was to put forward positive messages through music.

By December 27th, 1989, the organisation had broadened its vision. It evolved into an entity, founded by Selvyn C. Lewis and renamed THE BARCAM.

THE BARCAM, is a word especially coined to mean; "The struggle to uplift and unify mankind".

Over the last 17 years THE BARCAM has developed useful links by forging partnerships in developmental initiatives with national, regional and international bodies. THE BARCAM has devised a plan that allows the wider community to participate more effectively in youth development initiatives.

Caribbean Youth Vibes' Natalie Yearwood spoke with Mr. Selvyn Lewis, founder and manager of the BARCAM and one of the most successful young entrepreneurs in the Caribbean, on the challenges he faced as a young person venturing out on his own 18 years ago. Now at the age 32, Mr. Lewis has already attracted International clientele from the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Africa and several other places.

Natalie: What type of business is The BARCAM involved in?

Mr. Lewis: The BARCAM is a developmental organisation, primarily involved in the execution of activities and programmes aimed at

the development of youth, communities and corporate entities through participation, education, entrepreneurship, the environment, training, the promotion of culture and a variety of humanitarian endeavours.

I am an educative and theater consultant and I do a lot of work in personal development through theatre. Apart from that, companies hire me to do work with their staff on team building/group dynamics or to put together some management components; my organisation is also hired to go into communities that are traditionally marginalised because of social problems such as poverty, gang violence and drugs.

Today, we don't call THE BARCAM a business we call it a development organisation under which there are businesses. When we first started, we look at ways in which we could continue to do community work and sustain ourselves at the same time; we found novel ways in which to make money and build our skills. It was necessary for us to become qualified if we wanted to get the recognition and keep the group going. As a result, we went off to various universities to further our education. Now the organisation has moved from five members to two hundred and seventeen members with seven departments, with one aim i.e. to do community work. Our members are from different countries in the Caribbean and Canada. The organisation is all home-grown, we were never funded by anyone; we always had our initiatives and we are still growing because there is still much to do.

Natalie: What are some of the challenges the organisation faces?

Mr. Lewis: A big challenge for us will always be staying involved in a field that is not necessarily viable. When you look at the opportunities available for young people in the Caribbean such as youth work, community work and development work many prefer the more financially viable professions. Very often, you find that people involved in youth work have to stop because of family priorities and those employed with government ministries and department supplement their income by working on private projects.

Due to the need to be sustainable we started to establish businesses that

could fund the group. We have an Events Management and Promotion department. This department manages events for organisations and promotes parties and other functions for people all year round and at Carnival time. Even though these skills are not necessarily exclusive to youth work we make money from it. This helps us to make money for ourselves and to fund our youth and community projects.

Natalie: Does your business employ many young people?

Mr. Lewis: Yes we employ young people in two main areas such as education and developmental theatre practitioners, and facilitators. We have people as young as fourteen, the age at which we started. Because we are paid for our work we ensure that they are paid for their work also. We have established ourselves as a reputable educative and developmental theatre firm. Most of our practitioners hold Bachelors and Masters degree.

We also hire young people as facilitators. I started to facilitate sessions at the age of 18 with school children, churches and youth groups. That is when I began to nurture my facilitation skills. When I go out on my facilitation jobs I ensure I carry a young person or an Intern, as they are called, so that they can learn through their active involvement and at the same time they are able to earn money.

Natalie: What has motivated you to continue in this field?

Mr. Lewis: My motivation comes from the look on people's faces and the lives that have changed through our work. I think we all have a responsibility to make this world a better place. One of the many joys I have received comes from young people who I have worked with. On many occasions they have approached me and thanked me for helping them to become who they are today. Even though I am being paid for what I do now, there is no value because the rewards are greater.

Natalie: What advice would you give to young people who wish to establish their own businesses?

Mr. Lewis: I would always advise young people who have the desire to own and operate their own businesses to go for it. There is nothing to be afraid of. However, there are some realities. You must realize that there

will be a rugged road especially if you are starting from scratch; some people may be fortunate to have families who might give them a start in terms of the necessary capital.

If you are starting from scratch, some days and months you will make very little or no money. This is the critical point for success in any business. It is at this stage that you have to start trying harder.

Our success at THE BARCAM is based on our philosophy -

When it is rough stay! At some point you will reap the benefits of your labour.

Follow your passion. I believe that our passion is connected to what our role in life should be. I am of the firm view that there is something in this world that someone could do better than everyone else. Therefore, if you could find it, there will be a demand for it so when someone stumbles upon your ability and talent they will realise that they can't get it better anywhere else. Don't be afraid to say that you are the best at what you do. It might be an area that might be new or one that much people are not interested in for example the Arts. Nevertheless, you should go for it; believe in yourself enough that it will be a viable and sustainable venture.

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major alliance to ensure that there is a progressive approach to youth development, especially in the developing countries.

The summit was seen as timely for CYP especially because most of the developing countries are Commonwealth countries. Mr. Simmons acknowledged that many Commonwealth countries face serious challenges and the resources are not always available from their national budgets to strengthen youth alliances. He pressed for a global alliance with a dedicated source of funding for youth development on a global scale.

He reiterated that CYP, unlike many organisations who have a slight portfolio for youth, is the premiere international organisation that addresses the issue of youth development.

CYEX 2006 Supplement



Tortola, BVI - August 10 to 21



Sustainable Livelihoods: A Commonwealth Youth Development Challenge

CYEX delegates examine Youth Development issues

More than 90 CYEX 2006 delegates packed the Club House at the Lambert Beach Resort on August 14 to hear presentations by Mr. Ramesh Chaitoo, Head, Services Unit, Caribbean Regional

under threat, traditional exports such as bananas, rice and sugar are very limited, manufacturing in several states is not competitive and there is a need to diversify and increase service exports.

The participants were particularly concerned with matters related to the free movement of skills and services under the CSME and the benefits to university graduates, media operatives, sports personalities,

of the Caribbean's young people do not complete primary and secondary education and A high percentage of them are in prison. "Too many of our youth do not have what is required to be gainfully employed. We are battling substance abuse and lifestyle diseases such as HIV/AIDS while the so-called chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer are fueled by our diet and lack of physical exercise".

"These conditions pose an increasing threat to our livelihood. Renewed health threats are emerging in the resurgence of diseases such as TB and Malaria. More recently, the threat of an influenza pandemic has brought into focus the need to prevent disease, develop public policies and enact legislation that promote health and quality livelihood," Dr Potter emphasised.

"In our global village, we are not safe from anything. Our ability to live and work free of illness will ensure that we live longer and are able to enjoy the fruits of our labour".

She listed education as the key to preparing to or achieving sustainable livelihoods, adding that the region's youth must see their education as important and vital to their existence. The delegates agreed that societies must see education as being more than the learning of information.

They were urged to cultivate moderation in their behaviours and in the consumption of the goods that they can afford, to pay attention to new developments that can reduce energy consumption, to save money and resources and become serious



Dr. Marcia Potter

Negotiating Machinery; Dr Marcia E.R. Potter, Resident Tutor and Head University of the West Indies, BVI Centre and Ms Dancia Penn-Sallah, QC, BE, Deputy Governor, BVI on topics ranging from sustainable livelihood and trade agreements in the Caribbean to good governance and principles and practices of democracy.

The discussions surrounded the CYEX 2006 theme, *'Sustainable Livelihoods: A Commonwealth Youth Development Challenge'* and featured interaction with the delegates who sought clarification on a number of related topics.

Pointing to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and what it means for young people, Mr Chaitoo explained that the possibilities for jobs will increase because persons will be able to move to other islands or states creating competition from peers in the rest of region, leading to greater innovation and diversity.

On Globalisation & Trade Issues in the Caribbean, he emphasised that there were a number of challenges facing the region including the fact that all countries except Trinidad and Tobago were running overall trade deficits and most have had fiscal deficits for several years.

Additionally, it was disclosed that preferential market access in Canada, EU and the US was declining and



Mr. Ramesh Chaitoo

artistes and musicians, self employed service providers, nurses, doctors, teachers and tradesmen, among others.

Dr Potter, in her presentation on 'An Introduction to Sustainable Livelihoods', observed that too many



Ms. Dancia Penn-Sallah

about recycling waste.

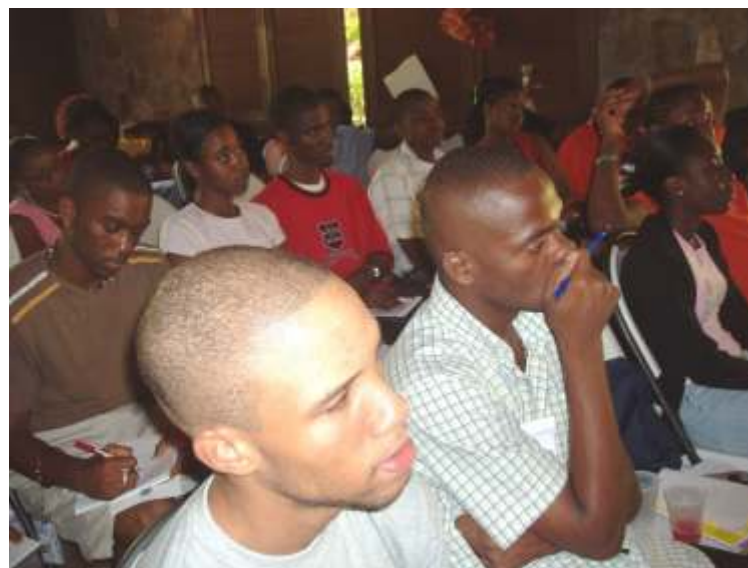
Dr. Penn-Sallah's session then examined matters of jurisprudence and democratic principles in the Caribbean. She urged participants to be vigilant so as to ensure that the rights fought for by their fore parents were not eroded.

"Some of these rights that were earned through sacrifice are freedom of speech, the right to trial by jury, the right to vote and the right to strike...one of the things about rights is that they are hard to gain but easy to lose," she warned.

The 90 youths welcomed a call by Dr Penn-Sallah to pursue a path of service which does not only mean running for public office but could be simple community work or taking care of the elderly.

Some of the young people raised concerns that in some Commonwealth countries police and politicians seemed to be above the law, but the Deputy Governor responded that partisan politics cannot help in the development process of a country and must not be condoned.

The day also featured three workshops which focused on more issues of *'Youth Participation'* and concluded with performances by various delegations.



Delegates listen attentively to the speakers

BVI Youth Director hails CYEX 2006

Remarks by Mr. Robert Chalwell,
Director of Youth, British Virgin
Islands (BVI)



Mr. Robert Chalwell

I am honoured and deeply moved to stand before this group of talented, intelligent, beautiful, creative, athletic and most honourable Caribbean youth Leaders. Over the past week and some days, we had the chance to share in experiences, learning and growth that has brought us to a place that can only be characterised as family hood.

Almost two weeks ago most of you boarded a plane with nothing more than an idea of where your destination was and what you would encounter upon arriving here. But in the spirit and courage of true leadership, you took your mandate as representatives of your respective countries and set out into the virtual unknown.

As the cosmos would have it, on the very day that most of you were in transit to the BVI, dark forces conspired to destabilise further our already compromised sense of peace; causing many of you to spend unexpected and frustrating hours in strange airports in foreign countries around the Region.

Many of you in word, gesture and deed have likened me to the "father figure" of the Exchange, and it is with a humble heart that I admit that no father could experience a greater pride than what I feel. I have learned and experienced all of you to be full of potential with yet unrealized dream and extraordinarily powerful spirits.

Every member of our team, from the liaisons to the Red Cross Personnel, to the Youth Management Team, to CYP staff and facilitators played an integral part in making this Youth Exchange a success. Unexpectedly and sadly we had five of our family fall ill in one fashion or

another, but for preparedness and unwavering commitment to each other we weathered each occurrence and with the exception with Roshnie who is recovering from medical treatment at Peebles Hospital we are all here, whole and filled with more understanding, more love and more purpose than when we first arrived.

I know that a proper thank you will be given at the end of our programme tonight, but I must express sincere gratitude to the BVI CYEX 2006 Planning Committee. Mr. Leslie and his staff here at Lambert Beach Resort, particularly Kailan, Ramon, Gregory and Sebastian who are undoubtedly not too far away.

The members of the Red Cross Team, Shawn, Girlette Byron and the others. Stacy and Andre who coordinated the arrivals and will be coordinating departures tomorrow. Reba, for being there to take such excellent care of Lorianne while I attempted to care for all of you. The members of the BVI Delegation who along with fulfilling their duties as delegates also jumped in as drivers, soundmen, accompanist, stage crew and more. And last but not least the Youth Management Team of Norman, Ramel and Kareem who were the real backbone of this Youth Exchange.

I want to thank Mr. Henry Charles, Ms. Dwynette Eversley and the staff of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre for their support and guidance. I would also like to thank my Minister Hon. Lloyd K. Black and Permanent Secretary Ms. Julia Christopher for their support of the Youth Exchange and continued support of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and me as its Director.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for reaffirming that the long hours, the seemingly endless weeks and ever-present challenges of Youth Development Work is the most honourable investment of my time, energies and passion.

We will all meet again.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

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copped the award for the **Most Outstanding Female Delegate** while Mr. Runaico Rodriguez walked away with the award for the **Most Outstanding Male Delegate**. The **Growth and Development Award** went to Ms. Francesca Hamann of the Cayman Islands, the **Spirit of the Commonwealth Award** went to Mr. Arri Burrows of The Bahamas, The BVI won the award for **Best Cultural Performance** and the **Best Delegation Award** went to The Bahamas.

Regional Director of CYPCC, Mr. Henry Charles in his remarks at the Gala Night, which culminated the Youth Exchange, commended the Minister of Youth Affairs, the Hon Mr. Lloyd Black and the Government of the BVI for hosting a successful CYEX 2006.

Mr. Charles urged all the delegates to seek to revive the Caribbean Youth Federation and to return to their countries and share their experiences with their peers including the youth at risk. "Information only assumes real value when it is disseminated," he added.

Reiterating CYPCC's appreciation to the Government of BVI for hosting CYEX 2006, he noted that the BVI would soon be launching its Youth Enterprise Development programme.

"Many governments are now forced to find strategies to push youth development. Only recently the CARICOM Heads of Government agreed to establish a Commission on Youth Development which has been mandated to travel throughout the Caribbean making recommendations. CARICOM has also approved a strategy for Youth Development".

The Regional Director highlighted the absence of a vibrant regional youth movement as an impediment to the effective articulation of youth views and called on delegates to correct the situation.

Minister Black emphasized that CYEX 2006 was vital to developing partnerships because it allowed the delegates to build rich networks which they could use to cultivate strong relationships among themselves. "The Caribbean region is in safe hands," he declared.

The Minister explained that when the current Government assumed office it sought to ensure that there were youth representatives on all boards and committees.

He thanked CYPCC's Regional Director, Mr. Charles; Programme Manager, Ms Dwynette Eversley; Director of Youth Affairs of BVI, Mr.

Robert Chalwell and other persons who were instrumental in the successful staging of the event.

Ms Eversley remarked that the period of the Youth Exchange was very enriching and without incident and thanked Mr. Chalwell for indicating since 1995 that the BVI was interested in hosting the forum.

"It took a lot of work by CYP to organise this Exchange with the support of Mr. Charles, CYPCC staff and Minister Black who demonstrated a lot of commitment. I would also like to thank Permanent Secretary Ms Julia Christopher and members for the BVI Organising Committee for their inputs," she stated.

The Youth Management Committee which was set up by CYPCC was highly commended for their level of commitment towards the hosting of the Exchange. The committee comprised, Mr. Norman Gilbert, Regional Youth Caucus Coordinator; Ms, Kareem Payne, RYC Representative for Antigua and Barbuda and 2004 CYEX delegate and RYC alternate of St. Lucia, Mr. Ramel Polius.

During the 11 days in the BVI the delegates attended a reception hosted by His Excellency the Governor, Mr. David Peary and attended a dinner hosted by The Honourable Chief Minister, Dr D. Orlando Smith. They also participated in the International Youth Day Observances on August 12 with a street parade where they wore their national dress and displayed their national flags. They also undertook a community outreach programme, attended a church service at the New Testament Church of God International Worship Centre, had regular delegates night where they showcased their countries through drama and song and went on a boat cruise to some of the islands of the BVI.

The delegates also benefited from a number of workshops on Trade Agreements in the Caribbean, Sustainable Development, Politics and Governance in the Caribbean, Youth Participation and Decision making, Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Youth Leadership Development.

At the conclusion of the forum, the delegates conducted an evaluation of CYEX 2006 and provided recommendations and suggestions based on their experiences.



Mr. Henry Charles



Statement by CYEX 2006 Youth Management Team

As part of the CYEX 2006 *Youth Management Team* we must express our sincere gratitude to the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) and the government of the British Virgin Islands for affording us the opportunity to participate in and manage such an important event. It provided an excellent avenue for us as Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) members to get involved in and make a contribution to the running of such an initiative, by young people, for young people.

"Our role was very challenging



**Ms. Kareem Payne,
RYC, Antigua and Barbuda**

Though CYEX 2006 was a great success with many high points, we can't deny the fact that there were a few challenges for us", remarked the management team.

The Street Parade which was held in observance of International Youth Day on August 12 demonstrated that there was unity in diversity amongst Caribbean people. The delegates' cultural nights showcased the different cultures and talents of each of the participating countries and the young people must be commended for their outstanding performances.

Generally, we are satisfied with the outcomes of CYEX 2006 and would



**Mr. Norman Gilbert
RYC Chairman**

especially because it involved coordinating the production of the traditional Youth Exchange Magazine. During the eleven days the young people were kept up-to-date with events through the circulation of a daily newsletter, *CYEX Vibes* which was designed by the management team.

Managing CYEX 2006 gave us the opportunity to be directly in contact with the youth of the region as they came together to formulate strategies to enhance and create a more sustainable livelihood and to empower themselves to face the challenges of an ever changing region.

The involvement of the youth management team showed that CYPCC is trying its utmost to promote youth participation in Caribbean societies. Delegates who attended CYEX 2004 held in Trinidad and Tobago had called for more young people to manage future Youth Exchanges and CYPCC has responded positively in keeping with its governance structure.



**Mr. Ramel Polius
RYC Alternate, St. Lucia**

like to encourage CYPCC to continue to support youth development initiatives of member countries. Appreciation must also be extended to Mr. Robert Chalwell, the Director of Youth and Sports BVI and the government for the tremendous support and guidance during the eleven-day programme which was well planned and managed.

Short Story 'Road Trip To Paradise'

By Angelica O'Donoghue
of Antigua and Barbuda



**Ms Angelica O'Donoghue,
CYEX delegate, Antigua & Barbuda**

it!" I grinned to myself as I skipped outside to look for Emm. Emm is my best friend, has been ever since I can remember. We were born just days apart, and we were both really excited about this trip.

The place was buzzing with excitement when I got outside. Everyone going on the trip was excited, well...most of them were. Those not coming along were whispering amongst themselves. "They all must be so jealous," I thought to myself. "Soon," I whispered softly as my eyes searched for Emm. "very soon we'll be on our way." I spotted Emm and ran over to meet him.

"Hey Emm! Ya all set a ready fu go?"

"How ya mean, Jay. Ya tink a you wan cyan't wait?"

We both laughed, jumping up and down, as our excitement soared to yet another level.

"EVERYBODY IN!" boomed Grandpa Joe's gruffly voice.

Emm and I were the first in line, well... I was first and Emm second. We were placed in the back of Grandpa Joe's old pick-up and at last, the long awaited journey began. The old pick-up grumbled to life and began to move slowly down the old dusty road.

"KFC! KFC! KFC!" I kept saying that over and over in my head just so I wouldn't forget it... as if I could. I had never been to KFC, but I sure heard a lot about it. That was all we chickens ever spoke about.

KFC is chicken's paradise, the land of milkshake and honey mustard. Many have gone before and none have returned. They say once you go Colonel your stay is eternal, but who would want to come back to Joe's Chicken Farm after you've made it past those red and white gates of KFC.

"I can't wait to be at KFC". I smiled again to myself, and as I looked back at Dee, he was grinning.

"That's the spirit Dee; you'll make it to the other side eventually. Just be obedient and do as Grandpa Joe says. Eat your meals, take your vitamins, go to bed on time and one day you'll join me on the other side. Till we 'meat' again my brother, till we 'meat' again."

To be continued...

"Cuckoo doodle doo...cuckoo doodle doo..."

You don't have to tell me twice, I've been waiting for this day for one whole week, seven whole days...and now it's FINALLY here! I sprung up instantly energized and stretched. For the first time this week I was enjoying the feel of the cool breeze and the warm rays of the rising sun on my body. I ran over to my older brother to w a k e h i m .

"Get up, get up, it's today. Today's the day, Dee. Today I get to go on the big road trip that everybody talks about! Yippee!" I all but shouted as I jumped up and down circling him.

My enthusiasm was thrown back at me as Dee grumbled a snide remark, rolled his eyes and turned his back to me.

"Awwww, come on Dee! Aren't you the least bit happy for me?"

"Just leave me alone Jay...please just leave me alone!"

"You're just jealous" I grumbled as I turned away.

Dee wasn't going on the field trip today. Grandpa Joe said he wasn't coming this time. Dee was disobedient, he wouldn't eat his supper or take his vitamins, and only the obedient ones who ate their supper and did as they were told were taken on these special trips as a reward. This week, only a few were chosen for this trip and I felt just GREAT that I was among them! "Dee is not going to spoil this day for me, no way. This is going to be the most memorable and happiest day of my life, I just know

St. Lucia's Minister of Social Transformation raps with delegates at the CYEX 2006 in the BVI



Honourable Minister Menissa Rambally

are the same as every other citizen in your country, hence leadership should be about integrating people and not stereotyping as some have the custom of doing," she said.

Delegates were advised that it was alright to be evolving as young people. "It is okay to move from one interest to another. Your minds are active and you are exploring possibilities...if those possibilities take you to politics, then it calls for development, integration and sharing your knowledge...politics is a people-driven career so you must have the interest of others at heart."

Today, possibilities are immense and limitless and this generation is doing things that were not traditionally done, Minister Rambally observed.

The young politician acknowledged the efforts of CYPCC's Regional Director, Mr Henry Charles and other organisers of the Youth Exchange, commenting that the Caribbean region has to find safeguards to protect the achievements it has made.

Delegates were told that the real world today suggests that the Caribbean is not removed from the

rest of the global environment because what ever happens there affects this region and youth leaders you will be faced with increasing challenges.

Delegates were given an opportunity to ask the Hon Minister questions. Here are some questions posed to Minister Rambally.

What are some of the challenges you are faced with as a young Minister and how do you maintain your integrity?

The challenges I am faced with are multifaceted. Stereotyping is the

biggest challenge for me. Being a young female Minister, older people often wanted to impose their thoughts by influencing my ideas and views because they felt that I was too young to make those decisions for myself. I was also being pressured to address women's needs ahead of men. These experiences helped me to state clear my stand against stereotyping. Despite that, I maintained my integrity by being true to myself and surrounding myself with positive people who had something to share with me that I could learn from.

Do you think there is a need for political education in the Caribbean?

Yes, we definitely need that in the Caribbean. We have been taught for too long that politicians are bad people. If there is political education in the Caribbean then people will be more informed about the issues affecting them.

What would be your advice to young people who would like to get involved in politics?

As young people you need to



Honourable Minister Rambally interacts with delegates.

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Earle Fulford reflects on Standards Workshop



Mr. Earle Fulford

Mr. Earle Fulford, Deputy Director of Social Services was a participant as well as one of the core group leaders in the Competency Standards Workshop held in Turks and Caicos in August. He has been involved in youth work from 1978 to date. He first started youth work as

an employee of the Youth Department which was apart of the then Social Welfare Department. Mr. Fulford was the first Turks and Caicos Islander to study and pass the one-year Youth in Community Development Diploma offered by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP).

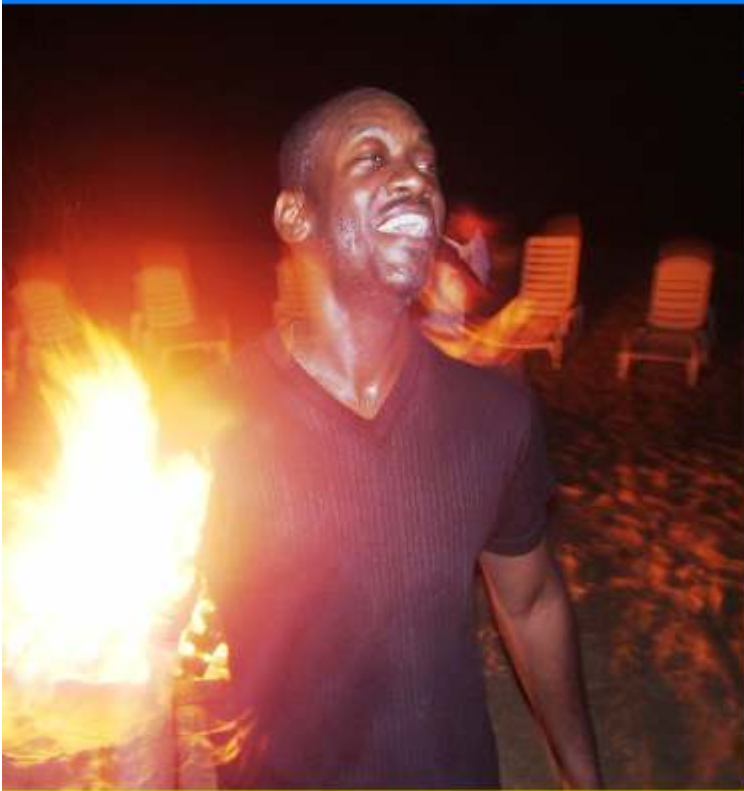
When asked how he found the workshop, Mr. Fulford stated that it was very informative and educational. He noted that it made him reflect on the days when he was directly involved in CYP's programmes. "The workshop was timely, and a little overdue if I may say so." He stated that the CYP had a very strong presence in the Turks and Caicos Islands when programmes were jointly run which included, the Duke of Edinburgh programme and many others.

He went on to say that the

standardisation of youth work throughout the region is the right approach that the Commonwealth head office is taking, especially at a time when Regional Integration is at the forefront and fresh in our minds. He noted that the problems faced by young people today may be at a higher degree in neighboring islands but they are similar. It is therefore a must that we adopt similar solutions and practices because even though we are separated by water, we are joined together by our culture and practices. "I find the standards and competencies very comprehensive and a handy tool that can be referred to when the need arises."

In closing Mr. Fulford applauded the work of the CYP and said the following: "The CYP has played a pivotal role in developing youth work throughout the Caribbean. There are

a number of past diplomats (graduates of the CYP diploma in youth work course) of CYP's residential programmes in many Caribbean countries including the Turks and Caicos Islands. I urge you to seek them out and continue using them for the benefit of young people. I would also like to commend CYP for continuous involvement in these islands even when Governments did not take it on seriously. I wish to thank past Directors of Youth for their vision which has paved the way for our successors. Finally, I would like to commend the staff of the TCI Department of Youth Affairs for good work and encourage you to advocate to the highest level nationally and regionally for the young people you are responsible to."



CYPCC revising CYCI Training Manual



Ms. Marva Bancroft

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) has commissioned Trainer and Resource Partner, Ms Marva Bancroft of Guyana, to undertake the revision of its Small Business Training of Trainers Manual, originally developed in 2001.

Ms Bancroft, who co-authored the 2001 version entitled, *'Helping Youths Become Entrepreneurs – A Manual for Trainers'*, said that the first publication has its genesis in the need to satisfy the training requirements of CYPCC's Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI).

According to her, when the enterprise development programme started in the Caribbean in 1996, as the CYCI, it only focused on small business management and personal development.

"The first manual helped participants at the community and grass root levels but with the revision of the manual, we can now forward them to other commercial financial institutions...therefore, we think that it is important that the beneficiaries know how to prepare more detailed business plans," Ms Bancroft explained.

"They already have the experience in preparing the plan in a basic manner but now we are going to be putting aids in the manual which will help them to prepare executive summaries among other things rather

than just filling in basic information".

"We have found that some countries, particularly St. Lucia, have adapted the manual to suit their environment. Additionally, with the introduction of the Achievement Motivation Training (AMT), we thought that it would be wise to enhance the manual," she stated.

CYPCC has also discovered that people with higher academic backgrounds are coming on board and the trainers felt that these persons should be provided with more in-depth information. It was decided that rather than conducting research to supplement what is already in the manual, this can be achieved by adding much more information to the document.

The revision of the manual will draw upon theoretical and practical Small Business/Entrepreneurship Skills Training to enable trainers to influence the acquisition of practical and relevant knowledge and skills in their training targets. This will achieve sustainable enterprise growth and development in young men and women.

The manual will reflect the experimental and participatory methodologies. Additionally, it will draw upon practical CYCI delivery and implementation in the Commonwealth Caribbean, paying attention to providing:

A generic market survey questionnaire that will provide a useful guide for participants conducting the demand side of the survey.

A sample questionnaire reflecting the supply side for easy reference for both trainers and participants.

Standard business plan format for first generation entrepreneurs and a more detailed business plan for repeat borrowers/ graduates of the programme who want to enhance their operations.

Case studies/references suitable to wider Commonwealth Caribbean usage to be used as training aids.

The revision of the manual is expected to take about six weeks.

Up coming Events

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

Caribbean Youth Day- September 30, 2006

Launching of Youth Lecture Series- September 30, 2006, Barbados

Dominica Youth Business Trust Graduation- September 28-29, Dominica

Youth Work Consultations in Belize and The Bahamas-October

OECS Conference on Youth Crime and Violence- October 11-12, 2006, St. Lucia

Launching of Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living Manual- October, Guyana

Cont'd from page 3

transformational model".

Mr. Charles added, "The summit has provided us with a broader network for dissemination of information from CYP and there is also an indication that some agencies, such as the Inter-American University in Puerto Rico, are interested in collaborating with CYP on research and issues of youth development". "I believe that there is a lot of potential but it is for us to see how we can nurture those contacts that we have

made. We also created an enabling environment where more people now know about the CYP...it also provided us with an opportunity to get additional persons and organizations to be aware of the importance of the kind of work that we are doing," Mr. Charles said

The Institute for Youth Development expressed its pleasure at CYP's participation and interventions. This was also endorsed by the Governor.



Some delegates celebrated their birthday during the CYEX 2006. Members of the Youth Management Team prepared a surprise treat for them.

Caribbean Youth Day September 30, 2006

*'Sustainable Livelihoods:
A Youth Development Challenge'*

Opening remarks by Director of Youth at Youth Work Consultations in Turks and Caicos



Ms Angela Forbes, Director of Youth, Turks and Caicos

I acknowledge the presence of Ms Sonia Williams, Under Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Development, Mr. Mark Garland, Assistant Deputy Director of Education, other Directors of various Departments across the Civil Service, distinguished participants in this process – I say a special thank you to you all for being here.

I extend a warm and friendly TCI welcome to Ms. Glenyss James, Programme with the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Caribbean Centre, who is here to facilitate the consultations process for the Competency Standards in Youth Development Work.

Youth Development Work has

been around for decades and it is rather sad to report that today, in the year 2006, it is still not recognised as a profession in many countries around the world. An assessment of the current state of youth development throughout the region points to the need to have specially trained personnel to work with the large youth population in our Commonwealth member states.

CYP has been working steadfastly throughout the years to enhance youth development work and training in the Caribbean through its many programmes and training courses for youth workers. Many graduates of the CYP Diploma programme, have been expressing the concern that their youth work qualifications are not recognised by their respective Public Service Commissions and as such did not have much marketability. As a consequence many cannot gain employment, receive promotion or adequate remuneration. CYP is now concentrating its efforts to address this problem.

In this light, the Turks & Caicos Islands Department of Youth Affairs in an effort to assist CYPCC in its quest to gain approval of Occupational Standards for Youth

Work that are accepted region wide will be conducting National Consultations on the Competency Standards for Youth Work.

We have a cadre of intellectual minds here in this room. Some of you I am sure are wondering why you are here and what your relevance is to this process. Your presence here indicates at the very least that you



Ms Sonia Williams

have an interest in youth development in the TCI and by extension in the region.

You are all stakeholders in the process of youth development regardless of the level at which you interact with young people. Because the Department of Youth Affairs does not act in a vacuum we see it fit to get an 'across the board' view on what competencies youth workers should possess. The TCICC may be called

upon to assist us in offering training programmes using the competencies that we will look at today. PSC/Training Unit will employ the youth workers that we will seek to train. Prison/Social Services will have to work with troubled teens and without a doubt may possess or will need to acquire some of the competencies we will examine today.

As several other Caribbean countries have already done, the TCI Department of Youth Affairs which falls directly under the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Development is very proud to be apart of history in the making as CYP seeks to standardize youth development work using the Caribbean region as its starting point.

As we continue in our efforts to develop youth work throughout the islands and facilitate the youth development process throughout the region we ask for your continued support.

Ms Sonia Williams in brief remarks commended CYP for supporting youth development in TCI and expressed her confidence that the Competency Standards will contribute to the acceptance of youth work as a profession.

Regional Director to attend Workshop in Africa



Mr Henry Charles

Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean (CYPCC), Mr. Henry Charles will be attending a Capacity

Building for Youth Enterprise and Business Review and Evaluation Workshop from September 11 to 15 at the CYP Africa Regional Centre in Lusaka, Zambia.

The workshop is aimed at reviewing and exchanging experiences from both technical and operational projects.

The objectives of the forum are to identify best practices for input to development of best practice modules in thematic areas; make recommendations for updating of the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative Toolkit and identify inputs to strengthen volunteer programmes.

RYC to attend Youth Employment Summit

Regional Youth Caucus and Pan-Commonwealth Chair, Mr. MOBafa Baker will be attending the Youth Employment Summit (YES) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from September 13 to 16.

The event, supported by a number of development partners will pivot around the themes 'Creating Markets', 'Unleashing Entrepreneurs', 'Building Trade Capacity', 'Attracting Foreign Direct Investment' and 'Building a YES Kenya 2006'. The forum will also build on the previous two global summits of the YES Campaign Alexandria YES 2002 and Mexico YES 2004 and showcase the

accomplishments of the YES Country Networks across the globe.

Delegates will also address issues of creating markets for goods and services for rural areas, and proposed entrepreneurship initiatives to eradicate poverty.

It is hoped that the workshop will help to build capacity, partnerships and conceptualise programmes and policies for implementation in strategies to combat youth unemployment. Innovative policies, best practices and ideas, will be shared and used for initiating action.

CYPCC for OECS forum

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) is schedule to participate in a conference on Youth and Crime sponsored by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) from October 10 to 12 in St. Lucia.

CYPCC's Regional Director Mr. Henry Charles has been invited to make a presentation on *'Redefining the Youth Development Agenda: Empowerment for Sustainable Development'* at the forum which is being held as part of the youth development activities in celebration of the OECS 25th anniversary.

The conference will bring together policy makers, youth practitioners and concerned citizens to discuss Youth Crime and Tourism; Youth Crime; School Violence; Youth and Drugs and other topics.

Participants will be drawn from academia, youth work practitioners and youth organisations. The first day of the conference will discuss academic papers relating to the theory and methodology of youth crime and violence. Regional practitioners who are involved in youth programmes and crime prevention initiatives will also present case studies and experiences.

The forum will culminate with panel discussions that will review presentations and identify recommendations for immediate implementation in the region. Some of these recommendations will be incorporated into the OECS Youth Initiative which is presently being formulated..

Dominica PM hands over EC\$1M to DYBT



Prime Minister Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, left, hands over the cheque for EC\$1M to DYBT Chairman, Mr Ronald Jno Baptiste.

Prime Minister of Dominica, the Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, recently presented a cheque for EC\$1M to the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT), fulfilling a promise made earlier.

A financial commitment had

been given by Mr. Skerrit when he presented the 2006 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals to Parliament on July 11, 2006. The money will be allocated to training and skills development as well as to allow for an increase in the Loan Guarantee Fund of the DYBT.

It is hoped that the latter will assist more young persons to access funding to set up small businesses.

The Dominica Youth Business Trust is a collaborative undertaking of the Government of Dominica and the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre. It is adapted from the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI) model of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP).

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Delegates listen to Minister Rambally

St. Lucia and still keep your integrity?

When it comes to my integrity and character I do not hesitate to defend myself. Apart from that I have adopted a well known philosophy which says 'the best defence is no defence. I feel that young people can play a positive role in the media. The media should be responsible for the information they disseminate despite their right to freedom of speech.

utilise every opportunity that allows you to be seen by the community and at other levels in your country. Give yourself a voice and support the politician who will support and push your ideas forward. Do not get involved in stereotyping.

What are your views on complacency in the Political arena?

There are programmes and other initiatives sitting on the shelves for a number of years that have not been looked at. It is very important that you realise that the civil society process influences the pace of progress in the region with regards to the implementation of initiatives. Politicians should find a way to help the process.

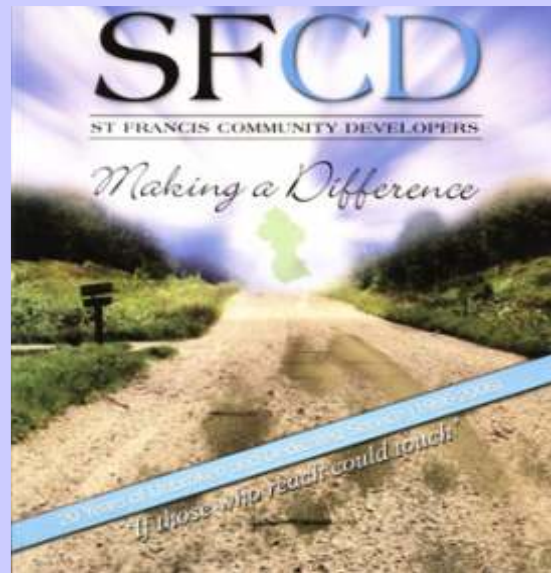
How are you able to keep up with the negative publicity in the media in

You can contribute!

CYPCC welcomes your contributions for the next and ongoing issues of our quarterly e-journal, **Caribbean Youth Development** and our monthly newsletter, **Caribbean Youth Vibes**.

Please email your articles to rbazil@cypcaribbean.org for the e-journal and nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org for the newsletter.

Best Practice Magazine Launched



The Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), in collaboration with the St. Francis Community Developers, launched its Best Practice magazine entitled *'Making a Difference'* on August 4, 2006 in Guyana at the J.C. Chandisingh Secondary School in Rose Hall Town, Berbice.

The magazine highlights a situation analysis, intervention strategies and challenges and successes faced by the St. Francis Community Developers.

The group has been innovative in encouraging and supporting the educational and moral upliftment of residents in targeted local communities in Guyana.

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

I Cried Rape by Simone Smith, RYC Rep. Jamaica

I did not ask for it. Why am I being blamed?
I am just the victim of one who has been given fame

Why do you treat me with scorn?
When you don't know my pain?
Don't you think that you and I are the same?
Though I refused to call his name,
every time I see red I begin to feel shame?

I was the jewel of their eye, "The Pearl" they would sigh
Now, I am being looked at like a fraud, a living lie

Where was my mother at nights when I cried?
To get away from his grasp I helplessly tried?
She heard but did not respond,
I agonized, every day, every minute and every second

My fabric has been torn by the hands of those who feel
hopeless and disoriented;
By HIV/AIDS, crime, poverty violence and
unemployment
I was fondled, humbled and bundled in a corner with the
rejected
When you, yes you, continue to rape me!
What did you expected?

Do you want to see my grave before you begin to act?
I beg you, please
I don't want to be raped anymore! This madness must
cease
Please listen, don't keep a heart of stone
I am your country, your Island Home.

Seek Dreams by Omar Ryan, CYEX 2006 Delegate of Jamaica

Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams
And not be caught slouching in corners
Day in, Day out
With cigarettes which brings death in your mouth
Sipping on a beer or stout
That slowly puts your life out
Planning of negative schemes
Living a life, driven by any means

Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams
As hard as it may sometimes seems
We've got to face the day
Comes what may, rain, pain
It still remains the same
You've got to gain, we've got to pain
Secure your health, life will sustain

Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams
Show it to world you got something
Give it to the people, your talents and unique blessing
There is no gaining in complaining
In slavery our ancestors have fallen
It's for you and I to do the rising

Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams, Seek Dreams
Take it from the heart
Make a start
Do your part
And like water running down streams
Go ahead and chase your dreams.

**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.