

INTERCOM

A Newsletter for students and others contributing to the Commonwealth Youth Programme

Volume 3 Issue 1

From the Editor

Welcome to 2006 and a new year for Intercom. In this edition you will see some spotlights on Malaysia and the Caribbean. Malaysia have recently had their third graduation. Congratulations to those students a great success for University Putra Malaysia.

I am hoping that we will hear from some of those graduands as they further develop their careers as we have heard from two of our graduates from the Caribbean and from Africa. It is great to receive stories of career exploits and like Frank it is also a great opportunity to tell your story and the important story of what is happening in your community.

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Out of the blue last month someone sent me some poetry written by a young Caribbean-woman. I was very excited to extend this Intercom to share some more artistic talents. I hope it inspires many of you to send me your more artistic endeavours. In poetry or pictorial. I know we have such a talented CYP community so I am looking forward to you sharing that array of talents with me and the rest of the CYP community.

Next month I am making my first trip to Papua New Guinea and am looking forward to bringing you some news from the very first group of students in PNG.

This edition also says some good-byes. Irene Paulsen from the Pacific Regional Office has gone on leave and has almost completed her time with CYP. A good story to tell for next edition, if you have a story about Irene then drop me a line. Irene has been with CYP for six years and has made an enormous contribution. Irene inducted me to the CYP commu-

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nity and I know that her colleagues and those within the region are very sorry that she will be leaving. Irene will be reading this edition whilst having a well earned break..

So, this edition of Intercom will be one of three for the year. The next edition will be in July. So, please send me your articles, artistic endeavours and ideas on CYP. All are welcome. My favourite articles are from students/graduands who talk about their work in their community. We can all learn from these experiences and it reminds us that the world is not a particularly big place.

Finally it is exciting to hear the news from the Caribbean with regards to Associate Degree programmes and the professionalisation of youth work. I hope I can bring you more information over the year. As always—thanks for your contributions.

Robyn Broadbent

Quotable Quote: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)

Interesting Facts—MALAYSIA

CAPITAL: Kuala Lumpur **POPULATION:** 23,000,000

Lonely Planet—Breeeeeeeezy

Malay houses are designed to protect against heat and humidity. Built on stilts, with tiny holes in the walls and high peaked roofs, they encourage even the slightest breeze to move around and cool the interior.

Graduation In Faculty of Education University Putra Malaysia

The CYP programme in Malaysia is offered by the Universiti Putra Malaysia, through the expertise in the Department of Professional Development and Continuing Education, has been instrumental in offering the Diploma in **Youth in Development Work** to students and youth development workers in this region.

The Diploma Programme in Youth in Development Work is endorsed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Malaysia. The Ministry has been sending its officers to participate in the Diploma Programme. Besides Government, participants from NGO's and other civic bodies as well as foreign participants have so far enrolled and graduated. The 3rd graduation was held on 19th December 2005. 30 of them graduated, of which 29 of them are employees of the Civic Bureau, Prime Minister's department, Government of Malaysia, while one of them was a Nigerian.

The graduation ceremony was officiated by the Deputy Vice Chancellor and attended by Heads of Government department, Ministry officials as well as PMYD from the CYP Asia Centre, External Regional Moderator of the Diploma Programme as well as guests. The participants expressed their gratefulness for the opportunity to undertake such a professional qualification. They expressed their thankfulness to Commonwealth Secretariat, the Academia, the university authorities, their tutors, their organizations as well as their family for providing them with both emotional and moral support in completing this programme. Many of them stated that at the start of the programme, they were overwhelmed by the modules and the work that was expected of them. However, over time with the help of the academics, the tutors, the counselors, and their seniors as well as their fellow

classmates, they were able to overcome whatever issues they faced. They expressed keenness in continuing with the education process by proceeding to a Degree Programme in Youth Studies.

At the same time they have been actively promoting the programme amongst other young people in youth associations, in Government departments as well as in other sectors. They stated that the Diploma Programme provided them with two major benefits: firstly, a personal transformation into a more confident, knowledgeable individual and secondly, a moral transformation into becoming more sensitive towards social issues and responsibilities and providing assistance wherever and whenever it was needed. They thanked all the stakeholders responsible for initiating this diploma programme for this valuable gift.

The successful students from the third batch was conferred the diploma during UPM convocation on the 25th September 2005. The graduands include:

1. Mohd Hermie Bin Hussain
2. Zahara Bt Ahmad
3. Sanisah Bt Omar Ali
4. Abazue Chukwuka
5. Noorhazlyna Bt Hamzah
6. Helmi Bin Halim
7. Mashitah Bt Sahar
8. Mohd Azry Razif Bin Rafli
9. Hashimah Bt Md. Zahar
10. Ghazali Bin Abu Bakar
11. Muhammad Taib Bin Salleh
12. Emran Bin Zahari
13. Mohd Afandi Bin Abdul Waha
14. Mohd Faizul Bin Abd Samat
15. Siti Anizah Bt. Sayuti

16. Mohamad Faisal B. Methlan
17. Syukur Effendy B. Mohamad
18. Zainuddin B. Hassan
19. Abu Samah B. Hashim
20. Norshahanim Bt. Mohamad Kassim
21. Shahrul Nizam Hussian
22. Mohd Saiful Azahar Hamzah
23. Ahmad Khairil B. Husain
24. Amir B. Abdullah
25. Ismail B. Osman
26. Zafarul B. Zolkafli
27. Mohamad Nor B. Sulaiman
28. Wan Shafulalbahri B. Wan Yahya
29. Rahimah bt. Hj. Sulong
30. Khairuddin B. Mohamad

(continued page 3)



The successful students and officer from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Commonwealth Youth Programme Asia Regional Center.

A Snapshot of the Development of CYP in Malaysia

The attempts to upgrade the professionalism of youth workers in Malaysia started in the early 70s when a group of newly appointed youth officers from the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture Malaysia attended a series of short courses related to Youth Development at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia then. The courses were developed based on a study conducted on the training needs of youth workers in Malaysia. However these courses were not accredited and remained as an in-service training exercise.

When the Commonwealth Youth Programme introduced the residential training courses at the Regional Centres, it was seen as an avenue that would pave the way for an objective pathway articulation for Malaysian youth workers. The programme had several shortcomings which include limited access to a wider group of youth workers, participants had to be away from their job, limited sponsorship, and again the courses were not accredited. Realising the need for a more dynamic approach in resolving the issue of professionalizing the youth workers, the 1995 Commonwealth Youth Ministers' meeting in Trinidad and Tobago arrived at a mandate that was instrumental in opening the door for Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) to develop an innovative partnership with selected universities within the Commonwealth. CYP together with the nodal agency in Malaysia, Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia (KBS), identified Universiti Putra Malaysia as the main institution with the expertise to deliver and confer the Diploma in Youth in Development Work (Dip.YDW) to students and youth workers in the Southeast Asian region.

The smart partnership involving CYP, KBS, and UPM have capitalized on the strength of diploma programme to be the impetus for the many milestones in repositioning the profession of youth workers on a respectable ground. The following chronological events tell the story:

29th May 1998 - Launching of Dip. YDW at Pan Commonwealth level (Kuala Lumpur)

23rd March 1998 - UPM Senate approval of Dip. YDW (UPM)

3rd October 1998 - Ministry of Education Malaysia approval of Dip. YDW

20th November 1999 - Intake of first pilot cycle of 50 students (1999)

1st December 2001 - Intake of second pilot cycle first batch of 50 students (2001)

27 November 2002 - Intake of second pilot cycle second batch of 50 students (2002)

14th May 1999 Launching of Dip. YDW at National level by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia (UPM)

30th November 2000 - UPM Senate approval of Masters in Youth Studies

30th November 2000 - UPM Senate approval of Ph. D. in Youth Studies

April 2003 - Public Service Commission (PSC) recognition of Dip. YDW

July 2003 - Formation of Association of Professional Youth Workers Malaysia

June 2004 - Formulating Malaysian Youth Service Policy

May 2006 - Submitting Bachelor in Youth and Community Education for Senate approval

In the pilot cycle launched in 1999 there were 50 participants, inclusive of 5 seats allotted to Brunei. From this batch eighteen graduated in 2001.

The second batch started with an intake of 109 in 2002 within two groups. From this batch 17 graduated in July 2004 and 30 graduated in Nov 2005.

**A Focus on the Caribbean Centre
CYP Youth Work Education And Training
By Mr Robert Bazil, Information Officer, CYPCC**

External Regional Moderator visits Montserrat

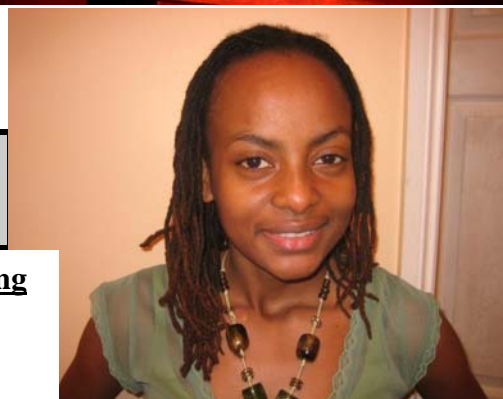
Dr. Mark Kirton, third from the right and Mr James Kirwan, Community Development Officer and tutors of the Diploma programme



External Regional Moderator for the 2nd delivery of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work through the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, Dr Mark Kirton, visited Montserrat from January 19 to 21 to hold discussions with several stakeholders.

According to Dr Kirton, *“A strong sense of commitment was observed on the part of the students and the tutors...it was also noted that the tutors often provided personalised instruction to the students outside the scheduled times.”*

Among the issues raised by students was the timing of the examinations and the need to adjust the schedule so as to provide more time for preparation.



**Poems
By Adrena Simmons**

My Life

Too much too soon
the story of my life
mind dreaming
Fantasy vs. Reality
Boredom settling in
My TRAGEDY

Have to keep moving
experiencing the new
Living
Loving the few
Stretching forth to the low and below

Wondering
Seeking
Finding the new
transversing foreign territories
exploring ancient pathways
the journey of my life
the darkest depths and the brightest heights

Got to keep moving
moderation is the key
cause too much to soon

Missing Physics... Doubting statistical ability

Everyday Theories
Action and Reaction
Sitting, observing
Clueless
Can someone please explain Simplicity?
These concepts are beginning to confuse me.

Standard deviation widening
The Gap between you and I
exponentially increasing
Doubt settling
what's the reason for me being here?
Intellectually questioning.

Alone
Numb
No conclusion can be drawn
The hypothesis?
My brain
Shrinking to quantum dimensions

Chaos... Confusion...
Wavelengths disrupted
my anchor
support structure disappearing.

Tortured... Lost...
In this Principle of Uncertainty
My energy... My presence...
No longer n-sync
My limitations magnified
All eyes can see.
The Horror!

Gone are the days
of being selected with the elected few.
I've misunderstood this singularity
Mathematical beauty
no longer known to me
My view has diminished
to only
Poetry

National Consultations on Competency Standards for Youth Work in the Caribbean By Mr Robert Bazil, Information Officer, CYPCC



Ms Ann Marie Dewar

Montserrat completed its National Consultations on Competency

Standards for Youth Work in January with 25 participants, including representatives of Government Departments, President of the National Youth Council and Regional Youth Caucus Representative being addressed on January 18 by Ms Ann Marie Dewar, Permanent Secretary, Department of Administration.

In her address, Ms Dewar declared that "youth development work is no longer a sideline, something extra-curricular and left totally in the voluntary sector. I believe there is a real is-

sue for Governments and the Public Sector organisations, to mainstream youth development policies and initiatives with as great a priority as is given to other environmental concerns."

During the session, CYPCC Programme Manager, Youth Work Education and Training, Ms Glenyss James informed the participants that "youth empowerment must become everybody's business - where governments, NGOs, family, communities, media, educational, health, employment, financial and other institutions act in concert."

Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua also completed their consultations in January and have submitted their recommendations to CYPCC.

National Association of Youth Workers in the Caribbean



Graduates of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work of St Vincent and the Grenadines have met to discuss the formation of a National Association of Youth Workers.

"The formation of a National Youth Workers Association is of critical importance to the progressive work being done by the CYP to develop youth work as a recognised and accepted academic discipline and profession,"

By Curtis King,
Diploma Graduate.

Associate Degree for the Carribean

Consultations are ongoing between the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre and the University of the West Indies on refining the proposal for the Associate Degree in Youth Development Work

CYP in the Caribbean

By Rosita Snagg

Growing up in the rural community of Stubbs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) in the early seventies was a tre-



mendous challenge. It was an era packed with youth bubbling over with enthusiasm to do youth work and to develop a sense of belonging to a group. It was the period when volunteerism was at its best and youth organizations flourished.

I was no different from the other youth in my community and as a teacher; it was easy to become a member of an organization/club. I served in several capacities in both secular and faith (church) based groups. However, the need for formal training in youth development was constantly on my agenda. I made use of whatever opportunities (mostly local and offered by the National Youth Council) were available.

It was my involvement in youth groups and the knowledge that I had gathered and used as a resource person that led me to become involved in the work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre. I attended several local and regional training workshops offered by the institution. I later completed the certificate course in Youth Work. However, my thirst for

knowledge was never quenched and so when the opportunity to undertake the Diploma Course in Youth Work arose in the early 80's, I grabbed it with outstretched hands. Not realizing at that time that participating in the Diploma Course would become one of the better decisions I made career-wise.

My teaching career expanded because I was able to work with the student nurses at the School of Nursing and the police recruits in training. In addition I established a counseling programme at my school and coordinated the delivery of the CYP Certificate course and the Pan Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development Work to

subsequent batches of students.

The Diploma course along with my qualifications on teaching gave me full exemption from a Bachelor's degree in International Community Economic Development (ICED) at the University of Southern New Hampshire, USA. I therefore pursued studies in the Master's Programme.

Upon completing the Master's programme I continued my stint as the Local Coordinator of the Diploma Course in Youth Development Work. My career opportunities soared; besides heading the Department of Youth Affairs, I served as the Director of Social Development for seven (7) years before assuming the post of Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development and Local Government.

I can say without hesitation that completing the Pan Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development Work has served as a catalyst in my personal and professional development and it has also helped me to succeed in my career in development work.

By Rosita Snagg

CYP DIPLOMA COURSE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR A GREAT FUTURE



and Care and Support for people living with HIV.

In 2003 I became a founder member of a professional association of youth workers called Tanzania Youth Workers Association, and elected to the position of the Secretary General to date.

Hampshire University conferred upon me the degree of Master of Science in Community Economic Development in recognition of fulfillment of the requirements for that degree with all the Rights, Honors and Privileges pertaining thereto.

I was a Village Agricultural Extension Officer at Kibaha District Council when I enrolled for the CYP Diploma course in early 2000s, but now I am a District Planning Officer. The course gave me knowledge and Skills to face the challenges of this new millennium positively and creatively. In 2002 motivated by the course I founded and registered a national youth NGO called Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Development (YES), which is currently a dynamic youth NGO in Tanzania.



Frank P. Materu with Tanzania Youth Workers Association

In 2003 I organized NGO network of HIV/AIDS at Kinondoni Municipality called Kinondoni District Cluster and received from a donor T-shirts to fight HIV/AIDS. We conducted 7 HIV/SRH trainings, and developed 7 standardized training manuals/toolkits for the use in the whole country. We also developed and distributed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material including leaflets, posters and T-shirts in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar Islands.

We also conducted 96 outreach sessions for community participatory learning on HIV/AIDS

In 2003 my career prospered. I managed to squeeze in further study including Master of Science Degree in International Community Economic Development of the Southern New Hampshire University, Graduate School of Business, Manchester, USA. The Area Coordinator of the International Community Economic Development program granted me a full waiver of the Bachelors Degree based on my CYP Diploma, service experience and my academic and professional background.

On fifteenth day of September, two thousand five Southern New

I see the CYP Diploma course as the foundation on which I can build all my ambitions and great future.

By Frank P. Materu

On page 8 there is some biographical information about Mr Materu.

Don't Work to hard



**Leave time to rest; it is
medicine for the soul.**



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT FRANK P. MATERU

Mr. Frank P. Materu holds a Master of Science Degree in International Community Economic Development of the Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, USA and is currently looking for sponsorship for a PhD at the University of Dar es Salaam or any other recognized Universities elsewhere. He is a Research Fellow, and the Principal Consultant of Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Development Foundation (YES); a private consulting firm. Materu has over five years' management and consulting experience within international development and humanitarian aid organizations.

He has held a range of positions within Tanzanian Government, NGOs, Networks including District Planning Officer at Kibaha District Council, Project Manager at Kinondoni District Cluster, Program Director at YES Development Foundation, and he has provided consultancy services including evaluations, M&E and review, needs assessments, project planning and appraisal. Materu is a founder member of Tanzania Youth Workers Association (TYWA) the Active Learning Professional Youth Network. Materu was born in Tanzania and spent his childhood in Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam. His dedication and consecration in Gods love and will is the real basis of all the above endeavors.

A NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS AND OTHERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME DIPLOMA IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK

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