

# INTERCOM

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

Volume 3 Issue 1

## From the Editor

### Welcome to the New Year and to our latest edition of Intercom the CYP Newsletter.

Thank-you for your many notes of welcome and the interesting news and information that you have been sending me over the past few months. I feel very welcomed into the CYP community. However, it would be remiss of me to begin this news without firstly acknowledging that the year has not started in peace and happiness for many. The Tsunami disaster has meant that scores of people, including many of our Commonwealth compatriots, are grieving for the loss of family. The world is united with you in grief. It is hard for people around the world to truly comprehend the depth of the impact on many communities, only to say we hope we can make a contribution to change and to inject hope in the many communities that have been a part of this disaster.

On another note, injecting hope is one of our themes. I have been conversing with many of you and learning much about the Commonwealth Youth Development Programme in other countries.

One of our compatriots has been writing to others including myself about his study trip. Radhakrishnan Pillai is a CYP graduand from IGNOU India. What he has been learning caught my eye and my

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The story called an 'Enlightened Society' is in response to my question to him about how his journey will impact on his work when he returns home.

The story tells us about an individual journey that evolved from one person to inspire a whole generation. I hope you enjoying reading it and I thank Radhakrishnan for sharing it with me. I hope you to can be a part of making change in a community - however small you may think the contribution, you are a part of a collective and as such each one of us is a change agent.

This edition also welcomes the Namibian graduands – the first for the CYP programme in that country.. Congratulations to you all, it is a great achievement that you can all be very proud of. As such we have a focus on Namibia. Even our interesting facts section in this edition has a focus on the country.

We have stories from graduands, including Elizabeth's journey from Kenya to Australia. We also say Good-bye to David Maunders. Please continue to stay in contact, share some ideas and more importantly some writing about what is happening to you in your work. Thanks to Mr Peters Abo Attabor from Nigeria, a CYP graduand who has shared some of his experience post CYP. Thank-you everyone for your contributions I look forward to working with you in 2005. Peace be with you and your families in 2005

2 Warmest Regards  
Robyn Broadbent  
3 CYP Newsletter Editor

## An Enlightened Society

January 2005

The story of King Mutachuda - Tripura Rahasya. A contribution from - Radhakrishnan Pillai CYP IGNOU India. Tripura Rahasya is a book written by Sage Haritayana over 5000 years ago. It contains instructions of Dattatraya to his disciple Parashurama.)

The King Muktachuda, having heard that his son Hemachuda had become a Jivanmukta (an enlightened one), consulted his other son. Both agreed that Hemachuda was not as before, but that he had changed so that he was no longer affected by the greatest of pleasures or the worst of sorrows; that he treated friend and foe alike; that he was indifferent to loss or gain; that he engaged in royal duties like an actor in a play; that he seemed like a man always intoxicated with wine; and that he did his duty well, not withstanding his absent-minded or other-worldly look. They pondered the matter over and wondered. Then they sought him in private and asked him the rea-

son for his change. When they heard him speak of his state, they too desired to be instructed by him, and finally became jivanmuktas like him.

The ministers were, in their turn, desirous of attaining that state, and eventually reached it after receiving proper instructions from the king. So were the citizens, the artisans, and all classes of people in that city. All of them gained the summum bonum of life and transcended desire, anger, and lust. And even the children and the very old people were no longer moved by passions.

*Continued Page 6*

### Quotable Quotes-

-By understanding others, we also come closer to understanding ourselves.

### Interesting Facts—Namibia

Namibia is in Southern Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Angola and South Africa. Namibia gained independence in 1990. Namibia is the fourth largest exporter of nonfuel minerals in Africa, uranium, lead, zinc, tin, silver and tungsten

Namibia is an environmental leader—it is the first country in the world to incorporate the protection of the environment into its constitution.

# Congratulations to CYP Namibian Graduands



## **Thanks to Ananias Nizimba for sending his pic**

Congratulations to;

Ilonga	Icgushiwetu Mandigula
Maghambayi	Frans Thadeus
Muhweta	Gregory
Nghifulifwa	Sarty
Niizimba	Ananias
Shaalukeni	Olavi Martin
Amenya	Sakaria Tangeni
Kazapua	Muesee
Shileka	Esther Ohenda

Since September 2001, the distance education Diploma in Youth in Development Work course has been offered by the Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Open University and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP). The course was offered in conjunction with the Government of Namibia specifically the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture.

Nine NAMCOL students were on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004 awarded the Diploma in youth in development work from the Zimbabwe Open University. The well organised and attended ceremony took place at Rossing Foundation, Khomasadal in Windhoek. It was presided over by Honourable John Pandeni – Governor

Khomas Region on behalf of the Minister of Basic Education, Sports and Culture – Hon John Mutorwa. In attendance were other NAMCOL and senior Government officials. The Ag. Vice Chancellor ZOU Prof. Robert Chimedza and the CYP diploma coordinator – Nelson Madziyire were also in attendance to confer the diplomas.

**Below is an excerpt of the speech from Valencia K.D. Mogegeh, CYP Regional Director for Africa who was there to congratulate the students for their achievements in completing the Diploma.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, through this programme we have managed to achieve a lot in Namibia. In particular in the training of diploma students, providing learning opportunities for tutors, training Institutions and Government departments and other partners.

The Diploma in Youth in Development Work has also built a foundation structure here in Namibia for the delivery of education and training for youth worker – not to mention the development of a body of knowledge in youth work. All these will be useful in professionalizing youth in Development work in the Republic of Namibia.

We therefore call upon Government and the Partners to continue with the already existing partnership so that we bring out a large pool of youth in Development workers who can identify youth needs and can design meaningful interventions also in a professional way for youth empowerment.

In following our pursuit of empowering young people in the commonwealth Africa, we shall continue supporting the delivery of Youth Work Education and Training programme.

This will comprise of the current Diploma programme whereby we shall continue paying for the fees, providing learning materials, revising the materials, developing new learning materials on top of supporting quality assurance.

We are also interested in supporting the establishment of National Associations of Youth Workers, which will be a professional association. It is incumbent upon the students to follow up on this.

As I end I wish to mention that in recognition of the students successful completion of the Diploma in Youth in Development work, the Commonwealth Youth Programme will present them with a Commonwealth Youth Programme Award bearing the logo of 14 participating Universities across the Commonwealth and it is signed by the Commonwealth Secretary General – Hon Don McKinnon.

Once again I thank all our partners in youth development for the support you have given us. To the candidates for graduation we say– welcome to the ranks of professional youth workers whose mission should be youth empowerment. So go out there and positively change the lives of young people.

***Namibian Graduands make some comments on their experience.***

### **NGHIXULIFWA SARTY YOUTH OFFICER**

- The CYP programme has improved the knowledge and skills during the time of my studies. At the beginning one could not really understand the whole process but through the whole two years it has changed me a lot, how to work with young people as well as the community where we are working. I have learnt a lot especially how to establish and implement a youth project.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## My Experience During the Commonwealth Youth in Development Diploma Training Programme

The Commonwealth Youth in Development Diploma programme is a worthwhile programme which helps to broaden the understanding of trainees based on a holistic approach on how to manage effective youth and community development. Understanding the needs and aspirations of young people is a core value of the programme. The programme instilled in trainees the idea to uphold and respect the principles set out by the Commonwealth, including dignity and worth of youth in community and national development activities and the essence of equal participation of men and women in development work. Consequently, trainees of the CYP are required to exhibit respect for all category of youth, with no discrimination against any individual or group of individuals (combatants, non-combatants, able, and disable male and female youths), or otherwise abuse the power and authority vested in them by the organizations they serve as youth workers. The programme emphasised that youth workers and youth

serving workers should always create an enabling and affirming work environment for youths.

I have worked as an adult educator and community development worker for over fifteen years, but the CYP has provided me with a better foundation on how to implement successful community development programme which caters for all categories of beneficiaries. Most adult education programme in Africa comprises of youths as it is very difficult in these settings to distinguish or properly define an adult. With my skills on how to manage adults in learning programme, adding the skills of youth management has provided me with additional advantage. The programme has given me an added advantage to do my work effectively. My fervent hope is that this all important will soon become part of our university's programme.

**Lansana S. Kamara** (CYP- 2004 Sierra Leone)

## From Kenya to Australia—CYP to Bachelor of Arts Youth Studies



**Elizabeth Odihamo**

I believe that I was born with a warm heart, a heart that loves and cares, with this in mind, I lived with the motto, 'the sky is the limit'. I had a passion to further my studies in order to enhance my skills and to develop my career. Working in the Human service sector in my home country was a big turning point for me.

With the welfare work, as an outreach worker in my home country, and with combination in hospitality, My role was to reach out to young people who had been left orphaned as a result of either or both parents dying from HIV/AIDS and even those who needed

physical, mental and health support. I visited a number of young people particularly the adolescence keeping in mind that this is a very crucial stage in life that most young people want to be recognized with some self identity, they want to experiment on life issues such as unsafe sex and even go out of their way to meet the demands of peer pressure so that they can fit in properly.

These were young people between the ages of 12-18 years. Working with the young people was challenging and I realized they needed a lead to make the world a better place to live. My passion to work with the young people started way back when I realized that there was need to advocate for the young people considering the fact that the young people and especially the 'adolescence' go through a period of confusion and they need a lead to help them grow in what they aspire to be. And that is why I chose to go back to studies to specialize in Youth Studies at Victoria University.

Studying at Victoria University has equipped me with sufficient knowledge

which coupled with my working experience will enable me curve a critical career transition with sound base of knowledge.

Coming from a different background, I decided to put in more efforts and self-determination and on the other hand, Victoria University has a fountain of academic excellence. It has a forward-looking policy. It provides an environment that is diverse and multi-cultural, this kind of environment has given me the opportunity to build proper networking. Learning at this University has guided me through a period of intellectual growth and help me chart a course for a life time achievement.

My successful completion of my Bachelor of Arts is indebted to the marvelous influence and contribution given to me by that extraordinary group of lectures who have been teaching me at various times during my course including Dr. Robyn Broadbent who ensured that my studies were going smoothly.

**Elizabeth Odihamo  
Kenya**



## Mr Peters Abo Attabor

*Why was your experience of the CYP Residential course beneficial?*

The benefit of CYP training was to enhance my performance in my field of professional work, that is, my youth development work. This was actualised through the numerous experiences and ideas exchanged with my colleagues from other African countries and knowledge gained from the training. Through the training I was also able to acquaint myself with other people's culture and tradition through the interaction during the period. In fact, the benefits were numerous.

I had earlier applied for a Degree and Masters at a University in the United Kingdom before the admission into the residential Diploma in Youth Work at the CYP Africa Centre. However, I am still planning to go further in acquiring a Master's degree in Youth Development. This is because I have taken youth work more seriously as a profession and it is my intention to give the remainder of my life to developing, and empowering the young women and men.

## My thoughts

### about the CYP Diploma Programme

Photo of Lopang with his colleagues, Ntshabang Teseletso, Moilwa Selogiwe, Raboloko and Malgas McDonald from the University of Botswana



When I started the programme I was so limited in the area of youth work, made more so because did not primarily do youth work but targeted a range of different cohorts.

The modules helped me a lot and further widened my scope in terms of dealing with the male community. They sharpened my presentation skills and widened my scope of thought for their application and the way it was applied worked well

for me.

Is there room for improvement: YES - at times we had to wait, impatiently, for exam remarks and results. This is one area I feel if done if done better all will fall into place. It is the first time of course, but we won't be complacent. My appreciation and do hope the degree programme is not out of reach, thank you.

Lopang Raboloko - 2004 Botswana CYP Graduate

# A CYP Graduannd Reflects on his Professional Journey.

Mr Peters Abo Attabor, Assistant Chief Youth Development Officer  
Ministry of Inter Government Affairs Youth Development and Special Duties  
Federal Secretariat Abuja, Nigeria; 13th Residential Diploma Programme: 1995/6

*Do you have a message for other Youth Workers?*

My advice to Youth Workers in Commonwealth countries is to take their profession very seriously. I know we have the best profession as Youth Workers; they should endeavour to further their qualification by ensuring that they are well trained in the field of youth development possibly through the Diploma in Youth Work. in youth work. Above all, be proud to be a Youth Worker

Thereafter they should make sure they further their education through the acquisition of a Degree, Masters and possibly a PhD in Youth Work. This will encourage professionalisation and encourage others to join the profession through quality performance in your job.

*Any advice to the CYP?*

My message to CYP is to encourage

those students yet to join the programme.

What they (CYP) can do to improve the programme is to ensure total commitment to programme delivery especially training in the Diploma, and also by encouraging countries that have not joined the programme to do so. Equally, ensure that the main five points of the Agenda are concretised i.e. Diploma in Youth Development; Commonwealth youths know of CYP's initiatives; promotion of human rights, promotion of national youth councils and finally, poverty eradication and health education (HIV/AIDS issues) programmes. Thank you and God bless you all.

**The African Centre has had Graduations in 2004 in Botswana (see below), Sierre Leone, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana.**

**Intercom sends warmest congratulations to all these students and particularly to the students in Gambia who are the first for the year graduating on January 27th 2005.**

# CYP's Contribution to Communities in Malawi



**Doreen  
Mbendera**

My name is Doreen Mbendera. I work as a district youth officer for Lilongwe district, the Capital city of Malawi.

The district is one of the biggest district's and the total population is estimated at 1,400,000. Malawi is a youthful country; half of this population is made up of young people. The district comprises both urban and rural communities. With such a diverse population, the district has created a total new culture and world for young people that is different to more traditional communities. Peer pressure, movies, newspapers and magazines, bombard young people with lots but contradictory messages that can leave them confused and desperate. This has resulted into a wide range of youth problems like, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancies, sexual abuse just to mention a few. Working in Lilongwe District therefore demands knowledge and a wide range of professional skills to deal with various problems that they face.

As a youth worker, day after day, many of my assignments get me into the presence of young people from in and out side school agencies and in various places where young people congregate. My office serves as focal point for all youth affairs at a district level. This include coordinating all youth activities, interpretation of policy matters, facilitating young people to the available opportunities, implement both donor and government supported initiatives, advocate for youth issues and represent government in various forums at district, regional and sometimes national level. My job therefore involves a lot of action

with young people, different agencies, and professionals. Hence my work requires one with good command of skills and knowledge that would enable effective delivery of youth services.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme developed my capacity and empowered me with specific set of skills necessary to professionally and effectively address youth needs. The course has actually sharpened my knowledge that youth is an area of expertise where youth offices must be committed to working wit youth as a special group with unique problems.

I now understand and appreciate their biological, social and physical needs and aspirations that young people have and the methods to deliver innovative, participatory, interventions to motivate them towards positive change. Through the course I have also learnt that there is need to bring about a secure environment that can create the atmosphere in which youth problems may be reduced. I have developed skills that help me initiate programmes focussed on youth empowerment that have provided an opportunity for young people to fully participate in various development activities that affect their lives. It has put youth activities in lilonwe district on the map. A lot of young people are now participating in development activities. Incidents of HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse are gradually decreasing.

Through the course I have also realised that young people are indeed most of times marginalized and in the process they are

made vulnerable and in need of special prioritised support and advocacy.

I am proud to say that I am a very good advocate for youth issues. Through my advocacy activities a lot of agencies have now developed positive attitudes towards young people and are able to direct their resources to youth programmes. They now understand that spending on youth programmes is not a form of consumption but is a great investment that can have a lot of financial payback in the future.

Through the course I have also learned that effective youth programmes need to integrate community participation as a way to sustain them.. The course has enriched me with knowledge of how communities, whether teachers, parents, local leaders, traditional authorities, religious leaders, can all be engaged in programmes to address various youth challenges facing young people.

All in all, the course has made me one of the reputable youth workers in Malawi. I am now a good planner, manager, advocate, implementer, organizer, facilitator, full of confidence and determination. A professional of a kind who is ready to make a difference in the lives of many young people in Malawi.

I thank the government of Malawi for awarding this course. I would even be happier if I was considered for a degree programme.

## An Enlightened Society– Continued

There were still worldly transactions in the ideal state, because the people consciously acted their parts as the actors in a drama, in accord with the rest of creation. A mother would rock the cradle with lullabies expressive of the highest Truth; a master and his servants dealt with one another in the Light of that Truth; players entertained the audience with plays depicting Truth; singers sang only songs on Truth; the courts fools caricatured ignorance as ludicrous; the academy only taught lessons on God-knowledge.

The whole State was thus composed only of sages and philosophers, be they men or women; servant-boys or servant-maids; dramatic actors or fashionable folk; artisans or labourers; ministers or harlots. They nevertheless acted in their professions in harmony

with creation. They never cared to recapitulate the past or speculate on the future with a view to gain pleasure or avoid pain, but acted for the time being, laughing, rejoicing, crying, or shouting like drunkards, thus dissipating all their latent tendencies.

### Conclusion –

The search for Truth is ‘individual’.

Yet an enlightened one can inspire his close associates.

They in turn can inspire their close associates.

Thus person-by-person a whole society can be inspired to search the ‘Truth’.

Finally a whole generation will be ‘Transformed’.

### Now the BIG QUESTION...

Do I wait for others to start the change or do I start it myself?

Radhakrishnan Pillai is a CYP graduand from IGNOU India

## REPORT ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO YOUTH PROJECTS IN AFRICA

Effective training in youth development and human rights will help young Commonwealth citizens in Africa and beyond to meet the challenges of the globalised world, says Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Mrs Florence Mugasha.

Speaking ahead of her trip to Africa last year in July 2004, Mrs Mugasha noted that the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Africa Centre in Lusaka, Zambia, had done valuable work for young people. The Deputy Secretary-General said it is an important contribution towards helping communities and nations to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and to further the democracy and development agendas of the Commonwealth.

Mrs Mugasha addressed the 3rd Africa Region of Partner Institutions offering the CYP Diploma and attended by 15 countries.

The workshop reviewed and evaluated the delivery of the CYP Diploma in

Youth in Development in the region

It also focused on coaching policy-makers and partner organizations in human rights, by stressing the importance of incorporating human rights in development work in the Commonwealth.

“Young people in Africa are confronted by a range of socio-economic barriers that can prevent them from realising their full potential and goals in life. The workshop aims to devise strategies that will provide solutions to these issues through effective training in youth development with a focus on human rights, professionalising youth work and constructive collaboration among stakeholders,” said Mrs Mugasha.

Since 1999, the Africa Centre has been implementing the CYP Diploma in Youth in Development, which is offered via distance learning in 12 African countries, in collaboration with ten universities and two training institutions.

Since its initiation, the Programme has enrolled more than a thousand youth workers in Africa. While in Lusaka, the Deputy Secretary-General also officially opened the CYP Africa Centre's Technology Empowerment Centre (TEC). The TEC has been developed through financial support from the Government of Cyprus. It is designed to provide information and communications technology (ICT) skills for young people.

“ICT plays a crucial role in all aspects of our lives and in socio-economic development as a whole. For today's young Africans, like their peers elsewhere, losing out on ICT skills means being marginalised by the digital divide and losing out on opportunities to achieve their goals in life.”

*“Greater collaboration is needed between governments, international organisations, civil society and young citizens themselves in order to bridge the digital divide in an effective and universal way,” said Mrs Mugasha.*

# Namibian Graduands Speak of their Experience

(cont from page 2).

The delivery was very helpful because we were learning by doing practicing and reflecting within our professional work. My advice to CYP is that we need a degree programme so that we could face even more challenges which our young people are mostly involved in, including how to improve their living standard. We hope that CYP this is just the beginning, let us work together to improve the whole of Africa youth living standard.

## FRANS MAGHAMBAYI - YOUTH OFFICER

The CYP program is so unique in the sense that it has enabled me to carry out my duties more effectively and efficiently. Before I joined the course, I could not even compile a community profile but now this is something of the past. I enjoyed the module that deals with entrepreneurship, since we are determined to prepare young people in income generating activities. I also enjoyed the Gender development module I am now better understand gender roles within the context of different cultural differences. I can design and conduct activities to address gender stereotypes. The only problem encountered is that of work overload. Since I have to do dual activities that of concentrating on my work as youth officer and that of assignment, test, and examination of the course. Finally, this course had boosted my morale. I am aiming to pursue degrees and master in Social Sciences.

## Good-Bye to Prof. David Maunders, CYP Editor, Moderator and Friend

### David Maunders

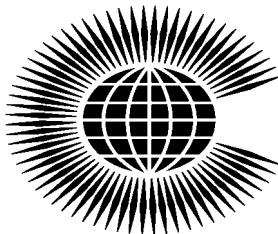
As you are aware from the last edition of Intercom Professor David Maunders has resigned as editor. You may not be aware he is also handing over his role as a moderator of CYP in the South Pacific region. David has made an enormous contribution to the development of Youth Work internationally, but particularly in Australia. David speaks highly of his experience with CYP and the friends that he has made as he has journeyed throughout this region and also worked collaboratively with Youth Workers in Africa and other regions. I know many of you would count David as not only a fellow collaborator but also a friend. So, I know I speak for you when we say that we are sorry to see him leave CYP. David has not gone too far and I am sure will stay in touch. Here is David in his CYP shirt with the new family puppy named Cody. Thanks David for your work and commitment to CYP.



**Try and have a little fun each day.**



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