



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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Dominica's PM approves EC\$2M for CYPCC-supported youth business trust



The Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica

The Government of Dominica has given a major boost to youth enterprise development on the island with an announcement, by the Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit, that EC\$2 million will be made available to the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT) during the 2006/2007 fiscal year.

"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 it will assist more young persons to access funding

for setting up small businesses," Prime Minister Skerrit said as he presented the 2006 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals to Parliament on July 11.

When CYPCC met with the Honourable Prime Minister of Dominica earlier this year, he was very aware that young people face greater than average financing and other constraints in starting up their businesses and he shared several steps that his Government had taken to promote youth enterprise such as access to Government lands for

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BVI Diploma students create history

Ten students from the British Virgin Islands (BVI) have completed their final exams in the two-year Pan-Commonwealth *Diploma in Youth Development Work* offered by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), bringing the first offering of the Diploma programme on the island to an end.

In a discussion with the Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles, during his recent visit to BVI, the students, who referred to themselves as 'the pioneers', said they are very happy

that they were able to complete their final exams. They are eager to provide assistance by contributing on advisory boards and other governing bodies, and generally being an integral part of the youth development strategy in the BVI.

They further said that "The Diploma programme has taught us about the requirements and the know-how of being effective youth development workers. The modules also helped us to see youth work from a different perspective."

One student indicated that because of her application of the principles learnt in the Module on *Management Skills* she was subsequently promoted. According to her, this Module certainly helped her to take a different approach to her day-to-day duties at work and this was recognised by her employers.

Some students pointed out that their absence from the education

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Editorial

Caribbean Youth Commission must be a tool for fundamental social change



Mr. Henry Charles,
Regional Director, CYPCC

cannot and must not be relegated to yet another public relations stunt nor must it become another gesture of intent or a "feel good" tactic.

In this regard, not only governments but all youth development stakeholders must diligently play their part in creating an enabling environment to empower the Commission.

First and foremost the youth of the Region and their representative organisations must engage in a massive mobilization, education and advocacy campaign to ensure the widest cross section of youth views are presented to the commission. They must also intensify efforts to revitalize and consolidate national and regional youth networks and organizations. No effort must be spared to engage the services of the many talented young professionals to provide necessary technical support.

Apart from the fundamental role of youth development agencies, mainstream Government, the private sector, civil society and other organisations working in areas such as democracy and good governance, human rights and law, economic development, enterprise and trade, agriculture, health, HIV/AIDS, urban planning and so on must be called upon to provide the necessary technical and other support to ensure that the Commission is effective; its processes are inclusive, integrated and accommodating, and its recommendations are comprehensive. There must also be the requisite political will and civic responsibility to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Commission's findings and recommendations.

Above all, the commission itself must be fully seized of its historical significance and pivotal role it has to play in engendering an enabling environment for fundamental change in the youth development landscape and regional development ethos.

In this context it is imperative that the commission examine and address the following youth development issues and challenges among others;

1. The challenge of youth mainstreaming in order to make young people an integral participant and beneficiary of planned policies

and programmes in all spheres (the political, legal, economic and social) and at all levels of society.

2. The relevance of current education strategies and systems in the context of developmental needs and challenges of globalization.

3. Access to more affordable tertiary education opportunities for the youth.

4. The phenomena and impact of unemployment and under employment among youth.

5. The marketability of the Caribbean Youth focusing on optimizing the impact of music, the arts and other unique heritage products on the global market.

6. Youth poverty.

7. The relevance and impact of existing youth entrepreneurship and employment programmes.

8. The integrity and relevance of existing policy development and implementation strategies.

9. Strategies to enhance youth participation in the national and regional development process.

10. Issues related to the social and economic marginalization/exclusion of young people, and in particular specific sub-sectors of the youth population.

11. Youth and the emerging ICT culture

12. Relevance of the existing youth development architecture.

13. An appropriate and effective national and regional funding and resource mobilization strategy for youth development.

14. Adoption of an evidence based approach to youth development.

15. Human resource and

development issues confronting youth development professionals.

16. The professionalisation of youth development work.

17. Youth and sustainable livelihoods, including issues related to mental health, HIV/AIDS, and healthy lifestyles and behaviours.

18. The establishment of internationally acceptable benchmarks and standards to guide and measure the impact of youth development strategies.

19. Appropriate capacity building strategies for youth development agencies, youth development professionals and youth leaders.

20. An overarching framework/strategy to mitigate the impact of globalization and related development initiatives on youth and to empower them to maximize emerging opportunities.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme recently updated the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) up to 2015. This document is a key guide for governments, youth agencies and all major stakeholders working to empower, engage and create value for the contributions of young women and men to the economic social and cultural advancement of their families and countries and for their own self-fulfilment. As testimony to our commitment to work with the CARICOM Secretariat and other development partners for youth empowerment, we reiterate our fullest support to the proposed Commission on Youth Development and call upon all progressive minded citizens to do like wise.

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system for a number of years proved to be a real challenge for them since it required extra effort on their part to keep up with their colleagues.

Another student, Ms Cecilia Georges, said that doing the Diploma was a rewarding experience for her because each module had a personal experience. According to her, it helped her to focus on things about herself that she either didn't know or had forgotten. "It was a very rewarding experience for me despite the death of my son on the eve of my final exams."

The students were all in high praise of their Country Coordinator, Ms Arlene Smith. They said her support, guidance and mentorship throughout the programme really helped them to reach the point where they were able to write the final exams.

"We are very appreciative of the Diploma programme in the BVI because the students can now provide support to the youth development strategies currently being implemented by the Ministry of Youth," Director of Youth, Mr. Robert Chalwell said.

Anguillian youth receive Leadership Training



From left are Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director, CYPCC; the Hon. Minister of Social Development, Mr. Evans Rogers and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Rodney Ray during a previous to Anguilla.

sessions which tested the participants' decision making and communication skills and their ability to work in groups.

The youth leaders were given the tedious task of conducting a mock House of Assembly which adhered strictly to the formalities of the forum and called for them to put forward meaningful proposals financially aiding what they identified as the five major social issues affecting the young Anguillian population. These issues were drug abuse, gang violence, child molestation and incest, teenage pregnancy and illiteracy.

The task was demanding and the young people rose to the occasion and presented these various issues for consideration by the mock House of Assembly for necessary budgetary allocation. They particularly enjoyed the bonfire and games that followed the challenging day of activities.

Met with exhausted youth and facilitators, the final day forged ahead with intense sessions that further dealt with communication skills, the importance and methods of time management, managing groups, organizing productive meetings and ended with an interactive component geared at youth handling the media. The young persons, though tired, were fulfilled and pleased with the outcome of the retreat.

The success of the retreat was accredited to the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Anguilla National Youth Council Interim Committee, the Youth and Culture Division, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley, facilitator and Programme Manager of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre. The sponsors - the Anguilla Great House, the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Cusinart Resort and Spa.

"With the goal of having a functional National Youth Council in the very near future, we are convinced that the Youth Leadership Retreat 7th July - 9th July, 2006 has certainly paved the way for countless possibilities," the organisers said.

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agri-business and other targeted support.

In a letter to the Honourable Prime Minister, CYPCC's Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles said: "I was very pleased to learn of your Government's decision to invest EC\$2M in the creation of further opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for the youth of Dominica, through the CYP supported DYBT. Under your leadership, there has been sustained and tangible investment in the youth of the Commonwealth of Dominica, and this is another clear and unequivocal demonstration of political will and political commitment to youth development."

"Honourable Prime Minister, we at CYP salute your investment in the youth of the Commonwealth of Dominica. As a trusted partner and stakeholder in youth empowerment and development in the Region, we also reaffirm our continued commitment to working with your Government to support the emergence of empowered, educated and self-actualized youth who are beneficiaries to national and international development. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew assurances of our highest consideration".

Ms Dwynette D. Eversley, Programme Manager responsible for Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods, in commending Dominica, recalled that the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI) model is predicated on Governments providing an enabling environment for youth business development.

"This direct financial injection takes the type of support we have received since starting up the DYBT programme in 2004 to another level," stated Ms. Eversley. "It is one of the most encouraging gestures in empowering young people through entrepreneurship, and the Hon. Prime Minister's initiative is clear evidence that the Government is committed to creating sustainable livelihoods for young Dominicans."

"We have had remarkable successes with our youth enterprise programme in Dominica so far. The Prime Minister's investment comes at a time when the success of the programme is creating more demand. There is a good team managing the delivery of the programme, and we hope this injection of capital can smooth the way for easier credit for youth businesses. If we can get similar levels of commitment from other regional Governments who are all

committed to youth development, the social and economic fabric of our Caribbean community will certainly be positively transformed." Ms Eversley added.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) Micro-Credit Expert to St Lucia, Dr Siddhartha Dash, feels that government's boost of EC\$2M to DYBT is a welcome sign at such a critical point in time. "It will go a long way in stimulating, supporting and sustaining the culture of entrepreneurship in Dominica."

According to Dr. Dash, what is needed now is a long term plan and expertise in order to strengthen the various aspects of entrepreneurship. He noted that with the necessary support, Dominica will be a role model for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean.

The Government's move has received swift responses from other agencies and individuals involved in youth development work on the island.

The new funding from the Government is in addition to the amount of \$100,000 that was made available to the DYBT in 2003.

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

The Loan Guarantee Fund has been established to facilitate youth entrepreneurs in accessing loans for micro enterprise development. An agreement was signed on March 16, 2005 between the DYBT and the National Development Foundation of Dominica, the Agricultural Industrial and Development Bank of Dominica and all the Cooperative Credit Unions.

Since the Trust was launched in 2004, eighty-nine young persons between the ages of 18-35, have graduated, having benefited from training courses in a number of areas, including: Small Business Management; Achievement Motivation and Financial Management. The Programme comprises a component of Personal Development, Small Business Development and Business Mentorship.

The Mission of the Dominica Youth Business Trust is: Empowering Dominican youth in realising their entrepreneurial potential.

Visit our website at
www.thecommonwealth.org/cyp

117 Guyanese youth graduate from skills training course

One hundred and seventeen young Guyanese, from the ten Administrative Regions in Guyana, are now equipped with the necessary skills to garner gainful employment in a range of vocations after successfully completing a ten-month skills training course at the Kuru Kuru Training Centre in Guyana. The skills training programme helps young people to gain a sense of self reliance, learn entrepreneurial techniques and gain positive attitudes which could contribute to a meaningful life.

The graduates were trained in eight disciplines including Business Studies, Carpentry, Electrical Installation, Joinery, Masonry, Motor Mechanics, Plumbing and Sheet Metal, Welding and Fabrication. Guyana's President, the Honourable Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, in his address pledged his government's support for youth development noting that the government wants to create a culture of skills development amongst young Guyanese in order to make them



A cross-section of graduates

better prepared. The idea behind the training programme, he said, is not only based on helping young people to find jobs but to give them the ability to create jobs. The President further said that "every youth we empower in this

country would contribute to a better Guyana."

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Honourable Mr. Anthony Xavier, who also holds responsibility for the skills training centre, said the

training serves to enhance the developmental needs of Guyana. He said while the centre offers programmes aimed at empowering young Guyanese it also enables them to make a tangible contribution to their Regions and Guyana as a whole. He urged the graduands to develop a hunger for learning.

Some of the students were presented with awards for their outstanding achievements during the ten-month stint. They are Ian Dos Santos, overall Best Student (Business Studies), Benson Joseph – Carpentry, Orwin McAllister – Electrical Installation, Warren Reddy – Joinery, Lowell Williams – Masonry, Floyd Christie – Motor Mechanics, Timothy Mohamed – Plumbing and Sheet Metal, Joseph Warner – Welding and Fabrication.

The graduation ceremony was preceded by a viewing of exhibits and projects created by the graduands. This was followed by the opening of a Hospitality House in the Centre's compound.

Brand new Youth Policy for Antigua in the making

A Strategy Implementation Workshop for Antigua and Barbuda's National Youth Policy, expected to be tabled in parliament by November, was held on July 6 to review the draft document which was formulated with assistance from the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC).

The workshop, which was held at the Jolly Beach Resort, engaged a wide cross-section of youth organizations from the twin island and was facilitated by CYPCC's Programme Manager, Ms. Dwynette D. Eversley and Director of Youth, Ms. Cleon Athill. It was attended by representatives from the various government Ministries, members of

the discipline forces, the media and youth organizations.

The Hon. Mr. Winston Williams, Minister of Youth Affairs, in declaring the forum open, emphasized the importance of a National Youth Policy and commended CYPCC and other stakeholders for their input and support.

Ms Eversley described the one-day session as very intensive. "We focused on interrogating how the strategy was arrived at thus creating ownership for the mission and goals that were set out, to detect any likely gaps," she explained.

She reiterated: "It was a highly intensive but fun session...there was overall acceptance and agreement



Participants at the Strategy Implementation Workshop for Antigua and Barbuda's National Youth Policy.

with the youth policy...we agreed on what would be the main mechanism for its implementation."

Participants were advised that in rationalizing youth policies they must ensure maximum participation of

young people in the implementation process. It was agreed that the partnership network, which includes young people is necessary for successful implementation.

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BVI to get assistance from CYPCC

(reprinted from the Stand Point newspaper, BVI)

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) is to receive assistance from the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) in a number of areas including youth development, youth entrepreneurship, empowerment and participation in governance. Regional Director, Mr. Henry Charles announced during a visit to the island in July.

During his visit the Regional Director met with the Honourable Mr. Lloyd Black, Minister of Education and Culture, and Permanent Secretary Ms. Julia Christopher to discuss various issues concerning young people. These included the development of a regional strategy for youth development, formation of the Caribbean commission on youth development, and the Territory's hosting of the Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange from August 10 to 21. Mr. Charles disclosed that the Territory will benefit from CYPCC's assistance in capacity building for the Department

of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Director of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports Mr. Robert Chalwell Jr. believes the BVI will benefit immensely from the visit by the Regional Director.

"The visit comes at a time when the Territory has quite a lot going on in youth development," Mr. Chalwell said in an interview with the Department of Information and Public Relations. He said ten BVI students recently completed the Pan Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development Work, offered through the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus.

"Given that CYP spearheads this diploma programme it is significant to have its Regional director visit the Territory at this time for a chance to speak with our graduating students," said Mr. Chalwell.

The visit by the Regional Director comes as Government continues to introduce a range of programmes aimed at youth development in keeping with its 2003-2007 Legislative Agenda.

CYPCC commends CARICOM heads on Youth Development Commission

Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC), Mr. Henry Charles, has commended the decision by Caribbean Heads of Government, at the twenty-seventh Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), 3-6 July 2006, Bird Rock, St. Kitts and Nevis, to establish a Youth Development Commission.

The Heads of Government mandated the Council for Human and Social development (COHSOD) to set up the commission to address challenges confronting young people in the region and to assist each other in the identification of best practices.

The announcement by the CARICOM Heads of Government comes on the heels of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting (CYMM) held in The Bahamas in May 2006 where it was

noted that "there is a growing world youth population that is estimated to reach three billion by the year 2015. This growth is giving rise to increased pressures on Governments and the Commonwealth Youth Programme to develop strategic, integrated and sustainable outcomes to address escalating challenges brought about by unemployment, HIV and AIDS, violence and crime and other challenges of globalisation."

According to Mr. Charles, there is a compelling need for Caribbean Governments to embrace the paradigm shift that advocates a holistic and evidence based approach to youth development and empowerment. "The formation of a dedicated commission to address youth development issues will provide an enabling environment where appropriate strategies can be developed," the Regional Director stated.

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During the workshop seven groups were formed to examine several priority areas of the policy. Under each priority area they identified goals and objectives, suggested new strategies that would accomplish each goal and highlighted the respective partners that would be responsible for accomplishing these.

Alternate Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) representative for Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Jameel Lee, who is on the committee spearheading the implementation process, said the sessions comprised a series of activities where various individuals shared their views on youth and discussed the opportunities available to them. These activities ensured the vision contained in the National Youth Policy was widely accepted.

Antigua commenced work on formulating a National Youth Policy some time ago involving a number of stakeholder meetings which resulted in a Draft National Youth Policy being produced. The draft looked at key resource areas based on young people's expectations for youth development. Out of that, the mission, objectives and strategies to meet the objectives were derived.

The process is being spearheaded by Ms. Cleon Athill and a team of young people including Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) representative of Antigua, Ms. Kareem Payne; Mr. Jameel Lee and CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Ms. Junella Michael among others.

The workshop also identified human resources needed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs to achieve the anticipated effect of the National Youth Policy when implemented. The next step involves further support from CYPCC for finalising the Draft Policy which will be presented at a national stakeholder consultation to coincide with Caribbean Youth Day on September 30, 2006.

Achievement Awards for CYEX 2006

Delegates attending the CYEX 2006 will have the chance to spur each other to excellence as they vie for seven awards that will recognise excellence and achievement at the individual and country levels. The Awards have become a popular feature of Youth Exchanges and are a small but meaningful way of bringing our leadership skills, responsibility and true commitment among the delegates.

Winners of the Awards will be decided by the delegates themselves when they cast their deciding votes from noon to four o'clock on the final day of the Exchange. The awards will be handed out at the Gala Closing Night on August 20th.

The categories are as follows:

Individual Awards

Most Outstanding Delegate (Female) - All round excellence and achievement

Most Outstanding Delegate (Male) - All round excellence and achievement.

The Growth and Development Award: Delegate showing most promise and personal growth during the period of the Exchange

Leadership and Innovation Award: Delegate showing most charisma, drive, dynamism, ability to motivate and find solutions

Spirit of the Commonwealth Award: Delegate epitomising diplomacy, tact, knowledge of regional and international matters, statesmanship, public speaking, respect for diversity, and the ability to manage people and situations evenly

Group Awards

Best Cultural Performance

Best Delegation: Delegation showing most discipline, responsibility, teamwork and togetherness.

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For more information on how to contribute to our newsletter please write to nyearwood@cypcaribbean.org.

RYC rep organises successful volunteer youth attachment programme in Belize

Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) representative of Belize, Mr. Albert Vellos recently organised a successful three-week youth volunteer programme called 'Volunteers 'R Us' in Belize from July 17 to August 4, 2006.

The Volunteers 'R Us summer programme sought to create a support group of young volunteers to lend their time and skills to socially-oriented institutions and to renew the spirit of volunteerism among young people in Belize.

The three-week initiative attracted fourteen young people who provided support to several organizations including a low-cost non-governmental Eye Care Center, Belize Council for the Visually



Mr Linford Castillo, Director of Youth For the Future presents Kendra Vernon with her certificate Looking on is RYC Rep, Mr Alberto Vellos.



Kendra Vernon assists a patient at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize

Impaired (BCVI); the Central Hospital, Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH); the Women's Department, and the National AIDS Commission (NAC).

At BCVI, 15 year old Menisha Thomas and 19 year old Marla Cayetano assisted with the scanning of Braille and editing of reading material used by the organization to teach the visually-impaired to read and write.

Ten volunteers carried out work at the hospital's Records, Physiotherapy, Dietary and Administration units, while two others, including a volunteer nursing student, were placed in the Surgical and Medical Wards of the hospital to assist in the day-to-day activities at the KMH. The volunteers whose ages range from 14 to 22 years are: Erica Augustine; 15 year old Jamaal

Palacio, Stacey Cayetano, Hakeem Arzu and Jamila Martinez; 16 year old Sharleen Palacio and Dion Phillips; 17 year old Janella Palacio and Abigali Cayetano; and 22 year old Kendra Vernon.

At the Women's Department Shyvonne Leslie, Tourism Management University student, helped to organize the institution's entire resource area, which she described as a very laborious task. Meanwhile at the National AIDS Commission, 16 year old Kenisha Hoare assisted in updating the organization's information system.

Volunteers 'R Us ended on Friday, August 4th 2006 with the presentation of certificates to volunteers at the Youth For the Future Resource Center. At this ceremony Alberto thanked the volunteers for their invaluable and outstanding participation. He also pointed out that they are just a few of the many Belizean youth who truly want to make a difference in their society. "In our post-Independence, BET-MTV era, we need more young people like you. Young people who will lead and not follow. Young people who would rather give than receive; those who will start to set a new foundation for a better Belize."

Mr. Linford Castillo, Director,



Erica Augustine and Abigail Cayetano assisting in the Hospital Records Unit

Youth For the Future Secretariat, also commended the volunteers and encouraged them to continue assisting where they can, since their contributions will go a far way in the development of Belize.

The evening's programme ended with a games session.

The following day, Saturday August 5th, the volunteers were treated to a field trip to the BACAB Eco-Park. Alberto plans to expand the programme by networking with other organizations in various parts of the country to ensure that other young people get the opportunity to volunteer their services.

The Volunteer 'R Us programme was supported by the Belize Tourism Board and a Belizean businessman.

Guyana to observe International Youth Day



Mr. Carl Brandon, Director of Youth, Guyana

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport of Guyana, in collaboration the United Nations agencies in Guyana, will be hosting a

panel discussion and Youth Fair in observance of International Youth Day under the theme '*Tackling Poverty Together*' on August 12, 2006.

The panel discussion will be held at the Umana Yana in Georgetown and will comprise youth panelists who will chair the discussions. Peace, education, unemployment, entrepreneurial development, adolescence sexual and reproductive health are among some of the key topics for discussion.

The Youth Day activities will culminate with an International Youth Fair and exhibition at the West

Coast Demerara Secondary School. The event will be kept in an interactive setting where young people will have the opportunity to interact with their peers and national and international agencies involved in youth development work.

The youth fair aims to share information with young people on topics such as the environment and sanitation; family planning; HIV/AIDS; nutrition; sports and recreation; governance; human rights; youth participation; and entrepreneurial development.

Participating agencies will set up

booths which will display their services to young people. This is aimed at informing young people on topics relevant to their development in society.

CYPCC's new Programme Areas
2006-2008

- Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Youth Work Education and Training
- Governance, Development and Youth Networks

Regional Centre meets other international organisations to discuss youth development agenda

Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) Mr. Henry Charles attended **CARICOM's First Meeting of the Regional Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Youth**, Bay Gardens Hotel, St. Lucia, July 14-15, 2006.

The meeting was held to review proposals for coordinating the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Youth Development, and to finalise the draft terms of reference for the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Youth.

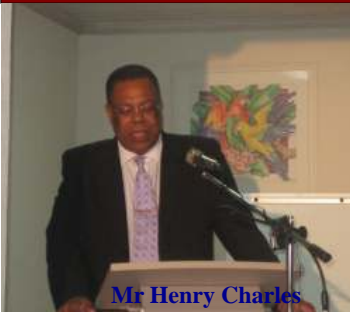
Speaking on the outcomes of the meeting the Regional Director said a draft work plan and a coordinating mechanism for the regional strategy on youth development were agreed on. Draft terms of reference and strategy will be circulated amongst partners for discussion before the final paper is presented. A draft recommendation for the composition and terms of reference for the Commission on Youth Development was also prepared. Mr. Charles further said that "The meeting

decided that the terms of reference should allow the commission to engage in a broad, extensive and intensive investigation and interrogation of the youth development issues in the Caribbean and to make recommendations to address their findings."

Amongst the issues to be examined and researched by the commission are youth and economic empowerment; youth participation; marginalisation of young males in the Caribbean; the relevance of education systems in the global environment and development needs of Caribbean countries.

Other Delegates at the meeting included representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Director of Youth of the Bahamas and outgoing Chairperson for the meeting, Ms Autherine Turnquest, and a representative of the Barbados Youth Ministry.

Regional Director addresses Youth Month rally in Grenada



from the Commonwealth Youth Programme. It is indeed an honour for me to represent the CYP at today's Rally and Vibes Concert which culminates your observance of Grenada Youth month 2006.

In many ways Grenada and CYP share a special bond. The very first director of the Caribbean centre was a Grenadian; your very own Minister of Youth Development is a beneficiary and strong supporter of CYP youth development programmes and Mr. Norman Gilbert, the president of Grenada's National Youth Council and Youth

Excerpts from the Regional Director's address at a Rally in observance of Youth Month 2006.

"I bring you solidarity greetings

Up-Coming Events

August 10 -21, 2006 - Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange - **Tortola BVI,**

August 12, 2006 - International Youth Day

August 15 - 17, 2006- Consultations on Competency Standards for Youth Work - **Turks and Caicos**

September 2006 - Launching of Youth Lecture Series

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

September 30, 2006- Caribbean Youth Day

November 17, 2006 - International Students Day

Development Officer, within the Ministry of Youth Development, currently serves as Chairperson of the CYP Caribbean Regional Youth Caucus.

Mr. Chairman, an effective youth development strategy is necessary but costly and may pose some challenges for Government. Consequently there is the need for a partnership arrangement between governments and the corporate sector to provide the enabling environment for effective youth development. It is in this regard I wish to commend Cable and Wireless for providing support and sponsorship for today's activity. I wish also to appeal to the corporate sector in general to follow their example and provide greater support to Grenada's Youth development strategy.

Youth leaders, the celebration of your achievements, as you are doing today, is important and necessary. However when the celebrations are over you must return to your communities rejuvenated and inspired to help build your youth organizations and ensure they are effective vehicles to express your dreams, wishes, concerns and aspirations. This is very important because, as we speak, there are unprecedented developments taking place at the regional level

regarding youth development for which young people must adequately prepared and empowered. Here I refer to the CARICOM regional strategy on youth development, the CYP 2006/2008 Strategic Plan and the recent decision by CARICOM heads of government to establish a commission on youth development to investigate the situation facing young people in the Caribbean and to make appropriate recommendations to address their issues, concerns and challenges.

Young people and youth leaders must ensure the widest cross section of youth have access to and benefit from these processes, I wish you a happy Youth Month!"

You can contribute!

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

Please email your articles to rbazil@cypcaribbean.org

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



Kareem O. J. Payne, RYC Antigua & Barbuda

Journal Expressions:

GUILTY!

Dear Journal,

Amidst the chaos of my troubled present and confusion of my uncertain future,

I'm often distressed by the burden of society's challenge...

A challenge to "Become"...

To be something other than I am ...

Something I am NOT...

Something NOT me...

Something NOT youth.

Effectively, it is that which makes me youth which draws most question...

It is that which is persecuted and condemned...

Indeed, it is that very essence of who I am...

That very essence of my youth...

My youth...which makes me wrong.

Often unsure of how to embrace my very own feelings and emotions...

Unsure of whether or not it is safe to embrace such...

Perplexed by so many of my very own questions...

I must now reposition myself to uncomfortably embrace society's correctness...

So that I too may become socially correct.

Interestingly, it is the same society that taught me rebellion was good...was correct...

The pages of history speak it to me all too clearly...

Proofed by movements against discrimination, racism and

slavery...

Could this be why I am so confused?

Alas! should the fruit have fallen further from the tree?

Or is it that I'm wrong...AGAIN...for learning what they have taught me?

Amidst this chaos and confusion though, I Think I KNOW...

Indeed I do know...

I know that I am youth...

Therefore I know that I am BOLD, DARING and

DIFFERENT

And I will continue to be...because I have the right to be...

I feel no insecurity about my difference...

About who I am...

I have the right to my own convictions and beliefs...

I will maintain and express such to my best judgment ...

Why?...Because I am...who I am...I am youth...

I will not allow my passion to be watered down or metered...because... I am youth!

I will not Bargain my ideals for love, money or kind, on that I will NOT compromise...because... I am youth!

I will accept the blame, and will bear the shame of being youth...because... I am youth!

I will recognize that I am guilty, that I am wrong...

Indeed I am wrong...

Not necessarily because of my actions...

...But because I am youth!

**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.**